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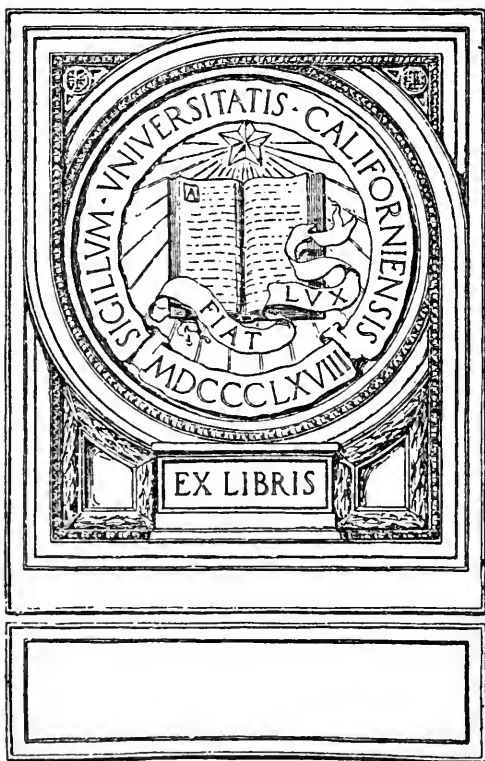
BUCHANAN'S
BALLADS.

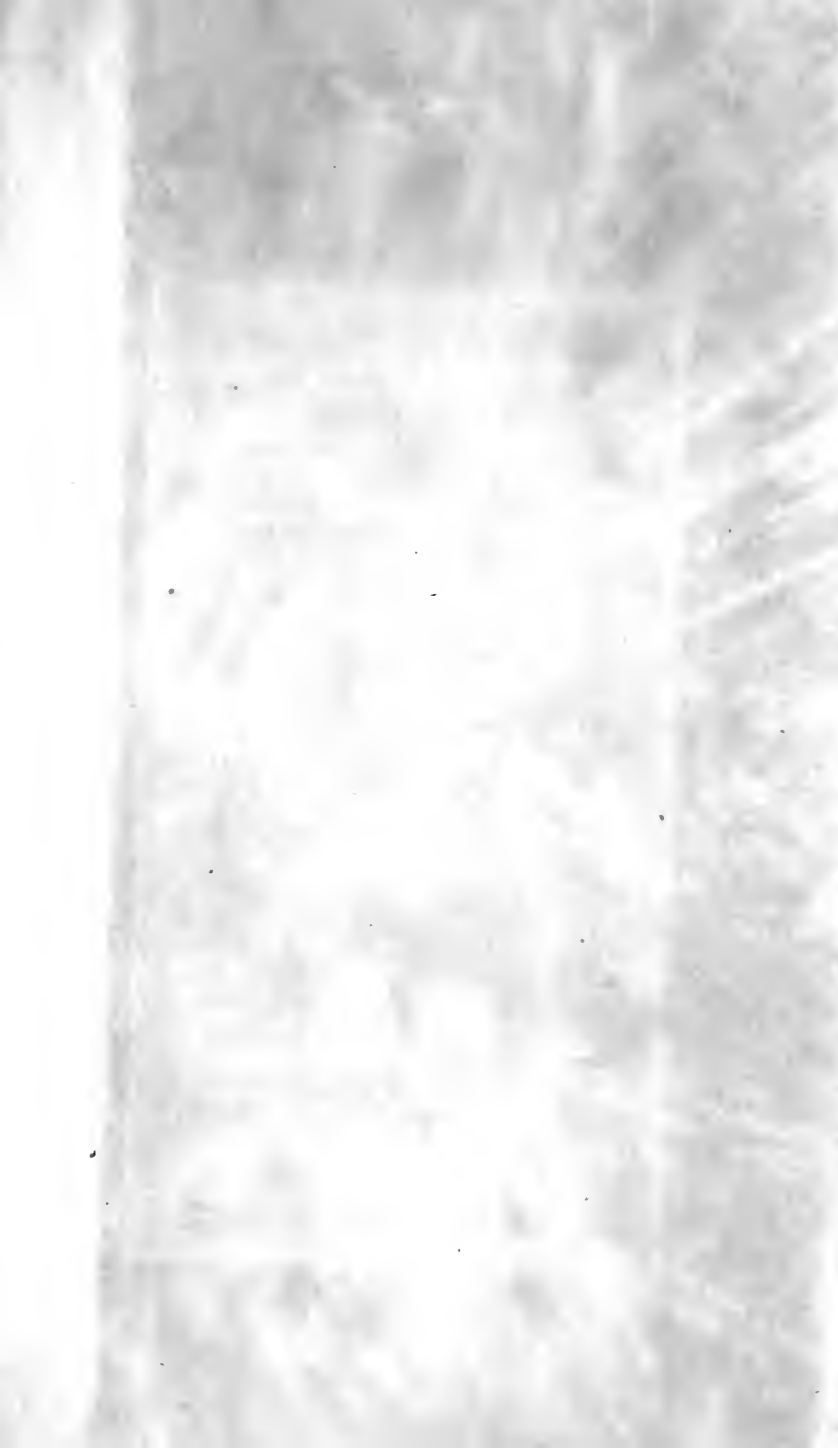
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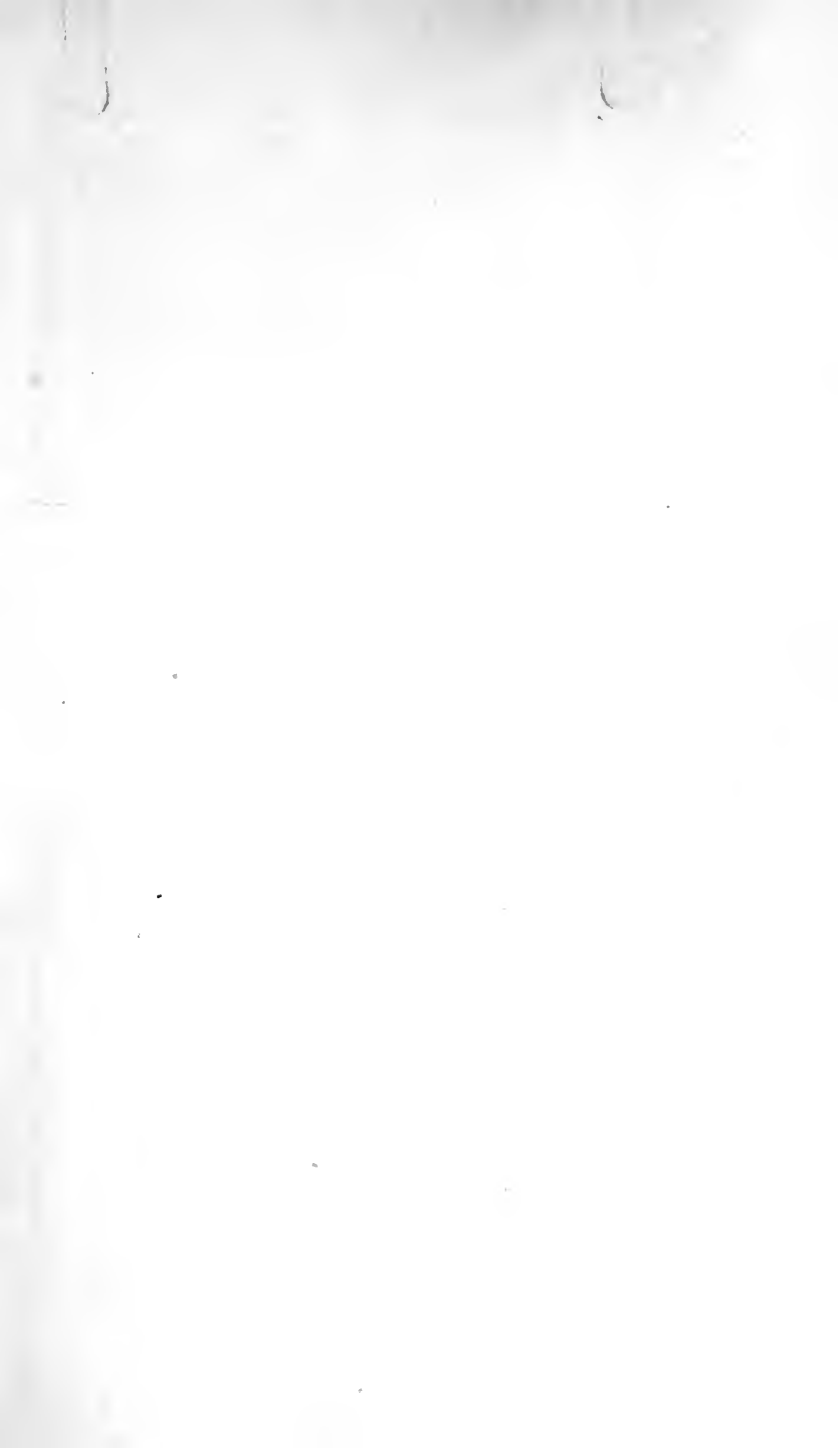
Robert Buchanan.

The Buchanan Ballads. Old
and New, Frontispiece.

8 vo. Co. Sprinkled Edges.
London 1892. (¹⁰/_{9460.})

First Edition — Scarce.

Contains: "Hallelujah Jane"
"Phil. Bloods Leap" and other
favories.



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"WHEN ONE COMES OUT, THEIR CAPTAIN, AND CALLS OUT FOR ME TO STAY."

THE
BUCHANAN BALLADS,
Old and New.

BY
ROBERT BUCHANAN.

Clown. What hast here? Ballads?

Mopsa. Pray now, buy some; I love a ballad in print o' life,
for then we are sure they are true.

Autolycus. Here's one to a very doleful tune.

Mopsa. Is it true, think you?

Autolycus. Very true, and but a month old . . . This is a
merry ballad, but a very pretty one.

Mopsa. Let's have some merry ones."

—THE WINTER'S TALE.

London :

JOHN HADDON & CO., SALISBURY SQUARE, E.C.,
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1892.

ADDITIONAL TO THE
VOLUME OF THE

4260
A 2
1892

PREFATORY NOTE.

OF the poems which follow, a few are already familiar to the great public, while some are entirely new, and now published for the first time. Such pieces as the "Wake of O'Hara," "Shon Maclean," "Phil Blood's Leap" and "Fra Giacomo" have long been used for purposes of public recitation.

In the poem called "Hallelujah Jane" an attempt is made to do justice to the nobler side of the great social Crusade led by "General" Booth, a Crusade which, despite some disagreeable features and a barbarous terminology, has awakened the sleeping conscience of the world to the sufferings of countless human beings. I have gone to the life for my picture, and have omitted no detail on either sentimental or prudish grounds. In the Ode addressed to the Empress Victoria, and published originally in the *Contemporary Review*, no note of mere flattery was sounded, but occasion was taken to point out those blots which still disfigure our boasted civilization; so that, in one respect at least, the Ode had an unique purpose. The lines on "the Burial of Parnell" (supposed to be spoken by one of his personal followers) are without any sort of moral or political bias. The business of a poet is to utter the truth dramatically, and fearlessly as well as clearly; this I have tried to do, at the risk of any kind of misconstruction.

I desire in these prefatory words to chronicle the courage and the generosity of the first man who, at a moment when the intellectual Scribes and Pharisees hung back, gave a practical answer to General Booth's great Appeal, and I do so with the more pleasure because this man belongs to a profession with which Puritanism has never shown any sympathy. I know of no more large-minded conception of true philanthropy than that expressed, on the occasion in question, by Mr. S. B. BANCROFT, to whom, with all sincere respect, I dedicate these "Ballads."

ROBERT BUCHANAN.

Dec. 3, 1891.

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THE BUCHANAN BALLADS.

“STORM IN THE NIGHT.”

STORM in the Night, Buchanan! a Voice in the night
still crying,

“They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where
he is lying!”

Thou, too, singer of songs and dreamer of dreams, art
weeping

For the Form that lay in the tomb, the Face so peacefully
sleeping;

And now he hath gone indeed, and his worshippers roam
bereaven,

Thou, by the Magdalen’s side, art standing and looking at
Heaven!

Woe unto thee, Buchanan! and woe to thy generation!
The harp of the heart he strung, the Soul he set in
vibration, ♣

Are lost since he is lost, the beautiful Elder Brother;
For the harp of the heart was his, the song could gladden
no other!

’Twas something,—nay, ’twas much!—to know, though
his life was over,
That the fair, bright Form was there, with the wool-white
shroud for a cover!

He did not speak or stir, he did not hark to our weeping,
But his grave grew wide as the World, and the stars
smiled down on his sleeping.

He made no speech, no sign, for Death has disrobed and
discrown'd him,—
But the scent of spikenard and myrrh was sweet in the
air around him !

So we kept our Brother, tho' dead ! The Lily Flower of
Creation !
And to touch his dear dead hands was joy in our deso-
lation.

But *now*, the Tomb is void, and the rain beats over the
portal :
Thieves like wolves in the night have stolen the dead
Immortal !

So peacefully he slept, the Lily Flower of Creation,
That we said to ourselves, "He dreams ! and his dream
is the World's salvation !"

But now by the Tomb we stand, despairing and heavy-
hearted :
The stars look silently down, but the Light of the World
hath departed.

And yet, should he be risen ? Should he have waken'd,
to wander
Out 'mid the winds of the night, out 'mid the Tempest
yonder,

Holding his Lamp wind-blown, while the rain-cloud
darkens and gathers,
Feeling his way thro' the gloom, naming our names, and
our Father's ?

Nay, for the World would know the face of the fair New
Comer,

The graves would open wide, like buds at the breath of
the summer,—

The graves would open, the Dead within them quicken
and blossom,

And over the World would rain the flowers that had
grown in his bosom !

Nay, then, he hath fled, not risen ! in vain we seek and
implore him !

Deeper than Death he hath fall'n, and the waves of the
World roll o'er him !

Storm in the night, Buchanan ! A Voice in the night still
crying,

"They have taken away our Lord ! and we know not
where he is lying !"

THE BALLAD OF THE MAGDALEN.

I SAW on the Bridge of Sorrow, when all the City
slept,
The shape of a woeful Woman, who look'd at Heaven,
and wept.

Loose o'er her naked shoulders trembled her night-black
hair;
Her robe was ragged and rent, and her feet were bleeding
and bare.

And, lo! in her hands she carried a vessel with spices
sweet,
And she cried, "Where art thou, Master? I come to
anoint thy feet."

Then I touch'd her on the shoulder: "What thing art
thou?" I said;
And she stood and gazed upon me with eyes like the eyes
of the dead.

But I saw the painted colour flash on her cheeks and
lips,
While she stood and felt in the vessel with tremulous
finger-tips.

And she answer'd never a word, but stood in the lonely
light,
With the evil of earth upon her, and the darkness of
Death and Night.

And I knew her then by her beauty, her sin and the sign
of her shame,
And touch'd her again more gently, and sadly named her
name.

She heard, and she did not answer; but her tears began
to fall,
And again, "Where art thou, Master?" I heard her thin
voice call.

And she would have straightway left me, but I held her
fast and said,
While the chill wind moan'd around us, and the stars
wept overhead,

"O Mary, where is thy Master? Where does he hide
his face?
The world awaits his coming, but knows not the time or
the place.

"O Mary, lead me to him—He loved thee deep and
true;
Since thou hast risen to find him, he must be risen
too."

Then the painted lips made answer, while the dead eyes
gazed on me:

"I have sought him all through the Cities, and yonder
in Galilee.

"I have sought him and not found him, I have search'd
in every land,
Though the door of the Tomb was open, and the shroud
lay shrunk in the sand.

“Long through the years I waited, there in the shade of
the tomb,
Then I rose and went to meet him, out in the World’s
great gloom.

“And I took pollution with me, wherever my footsteps
came;
Yes, I shook my sin on the Cities, my sin and the sign of
my shame.

“Yet I knew if I could find him, and kneel and anoint
his feet,
That his gentle hands would bless me, and our eyes at
last would meet.

“And my sin would fall and leave me, and peace would
fill my breast,
And there, in the Tomb he rose from, I could lie me down
and rest.”

Tall in the moonlit City, pale as some statue of stone,
With the evil of earth upon her, she stood and she made
her moan.

And away on the lonely bridges, and under the gaslight
gleam,
The pale street-walker heard her, a voice like a voice in a
dream.

For, lo! in her hands she carried a vessel with spices
sweet,
And she cried, “Where art thou, Master? I come to
anoint thy feet.”

Then my living force fell from me, and I stood and
watch’d her go
From shrine to shrine in the starlight, with feeble feet
and slow.

And the stars look'd down in sorrow, and the earth lay
black beneath,

And the sleeping City was cover'd with shadows of night
and death,

While I heard the faint voice wailing afar in the stony
street,

“Where art thou, Master, Master? I come to anoint
thy feet.”

"HALLELUJAH JANE."

"He's a long way off, is Jesus—and we've *got* to make it loud!"

*Glory! Hallelujah! March along together!
March along, march along, every kind of weather!
Wet or dry, shower or shine, ready night and day,
Travelling to Jesus, singing on the way!
He is waiting for us, yonder in the sky,
Stooping down His shining head to*

Hear

Our

CRY!

"'ALLELOOJAH! 'alleloojah! Round the corner of the street,
They're a-coming and a-singing, with a sound of tramping feet.
Throw the windy open, Jenny—let me 'ear the fife and drum—
Garn! the cold can't 'arm *me*, Jenny—ain't I book'd for Kingdom Come?
I've got the doctor's ticket for a third-class seat, ye know,
And the Lord 'll blow his whistle, and the train begin to go. . . .
'Alleloojah! How I love 'em!—and the music—and the rhyme—
My 'eart's a-marchin' with 'em, and my feet is beatin' time!
Lift me up, and let me see them—Lord, how bright they looks to-day!
Ain't it 'eavenly? Men and women, boys and gels, they march away!

Who's that wavin' ? It's the Captain, bless his 'art ! He
 sees me plain—
 It was 'im as 'ad me chris'en'd, call'd me 'Alleloojah
 Jane !'
 And the minute I was chris'en'd, somethink lep' in my
 inside,
 And I saw, fur off and shining, Golden Gates as open'd
 wide,
 And I 'eard the Angels 'oller, and I answered loud and
 clear,
 And the blessed, larfing Jesus cried, ' You've got to march
 up 'ere !'
 And I march'd and lep' and shouted till my throat was
 sick and sore,
 Down I tumbled with diptheery, and I couldn't march no
 more !''

*Glory ! Hallelujah ! Sound the fife and drum !
 Brother, won't you join us, bound for Kingdom Come ?
 Wear our regimentals, spick and span and gay,
 And be always ready to listen and obey ?
 Form in marching order, stepping right along,
 While above the angels smile and*

*Join
 Our
 Song ?*

"Are they gone ? Well, lay me down, Jenny—for p'r'aps
 this very day
 The Lord 'll read the roll-call, so there ain't much time
 to stay.
 But afore I leave yer, Jenny, for the trip as all must take,
 Jest you 'ear me bless the music that fust blew my soul
 awake. . . .

I was born in dirt and darkness—I was blind and dumb
with sin—
For the typhus 'ad took father, and my mother's-milk
was gin,
And at sixteen I was walkin' like the other gels ye meet,
And I kep' a little sister by my earnin's on the street.
Well, they say 'twas orful sinful, but 'twas all I'd got to
do,
For I 'ad to get my livin', and to keep my sister too;
And poor Bess, yer see, was sickly—for she'd never been
the same
Since she got a kick from father on the back, wot made
her lame;—
As for mother, she was berried too, thank God! One
winter night
Been run over by a Pickford, when mad drunk, and serve
her right!
So we two was left together, and poor Bess, 'twas 'ard for
'er,
For her legs was thin as matches, and she couldn't scursly
stir;
But so pretty! with her thin face, and her silken yellor
'air,
And so 'andy with her needle, in her invalidy chair.
And when at night I left her to walk out in street and
lane,
Tho' I come 'ome empty-'anded, she'd a kiss for sister
Jane.
But 'twas 'ard, and allays 'arder, just to keep ourselves at
all,
Me so precious black and ugly, Bess so 'flicted and so
small,
For tho' only one year younger, she'd 'a past for twelve
or less;
But, Lor bless ye, she was clever, and could read and
spell, could Bess!

(She'd learnt it at the 'ospital from some kind nuss, yer see.)

When I brought 'er 'ome a paper she could read the noos to me,

All the p'lice noos and the murders, and the other rum things there,

And for 'ours I'd sit and listen, by her invalidy chair!

Well, one night as I was climbin' up the stair, tired out and sad,

For the luck had been ag'in me, and 'twas pourin' down like mad,

I 'eard her voice a-screaming! and from floor to floor I ran,

Till I reach'd our room and sor 'er, and beside her was a man,

An ugly Spanish sailor as was lodgin' in the place,

And the beast was 'oldin' Bessie and a-kissing of her face,

And she cried and scream'd and struggled, a-tryin' to get free,

And the beast he 'eard me comin' and turned round 'is face to me,

And I sor it black and ugly with the drink and worse beside,

And I screech'd, 'Let go my sister!' while she 'id her face and cried.

Then the man look'd black as thunder, and he swore he'd 'ave my life

If I stay'd there, and his fingers began feelin' for his knife,

But I lep' and seized a poker as was lying by the grate,

And I struck 'im on the forrid (bet your life he got it straight—

For I felt as strong as twenty!), and he guv an angry groan,

Drew the knife, and lep' to stab me, then roll'd over like a stone!

And the landlord and the lodgers came a-rushin' up the
stair,
While I knelt by Bess, who'd fainted in her invalidy chair !
Well, Jenny, no one blamed me !—and the p'lice said
' Serve him right ! '—
I never saw his face ag'in arter that drefful night ;
But ever arter that poor Bess seem'd dull and full of care,
And she droop'd and droop'd and sicken'd in her invalidy
chair.
Some trouble of the 'art, they said (that shock was her
death-blow !)
And I watched her late and early, and I knew as she
must go ;
And the doctor gave her physic, and she'd all as she could
eat,
And I bought her many a relish, when I'd luck upon the
street ;
But one mornin', close on Easter, when I waken'd in our
bed,
I turn'd and see her lyin' with her arms out, stiff and
dead !
And I cried a bit and kiss'd her, then got out o' bed and
drest,
Wash'd her face, put on clean linen, placed her 'ands upon
her breast,
And she look'd . . . she look'd . . . so pretty !
God was good ! I'd luck just then—
I scraped the money somehow, till I'd nigh on one pound
ten,
And I bought poor Bess a coffin, and a grave where she
could lie—
She got no workus berryin'—thank God for *that*, sez I !
And the neighbours sor me foller, all a-gatherin' in a
crowd,
And I never felt as lonesome, but I never felt so proud !

Arter that, I sort o' drifted 'ere and there about the town,
Like a smut blown from a chimbly, and a long time
comin' down!

And I took to drink like mother, and the drink it made
me mad,

So, between the streets and prison, well, my luck was
orful bad!

I was 'onest, tho', and never robb'd a man, or thief'd (not
me!)

Tho' they quodded me for fightin', and bad langwidge,
don't yer see?

And at last, somehow or other, how it come about ain't
clear,

I was took to the Lock 'Ospital, and kep' there nigh a
year.

And I felt—well, now, I'll tell yer—like a bit of orange
peel,

All muddy and all rotten, wot you squash beneath your
'eel.

Well, the doctors 'eal'd and cured me, but one mornin',
when they said,

I might go to a reformat'ry, sez I, 'No, strike me dead!'

And I felt a kind o' loathin' for them all, and thought
of Bess

Lyin' peaceful there at Stepney in her clean white fun'ral
dress.

And I left the Lock next mornin'—I was wild, ye see,
to go—

And 'twas Christmas, when I trampled back to Stepney
thro' the snow—

And I met a chap who treated me and made me blazin'
tight,

And I lost my 'ed and waken'd in the streets at dead
o' night,

And the snow was fallin', fallin', and 'twas thick upon
the ground,

And I'd got no place to go to, and my 'ed was whirlin'
round,
When I see a lamp afore me, and a door stood open wide,
And I took it for a publick, till they sang a psalm inside,
And I sez, 'It's them Salvationists!' and turned to go
away,
When one comes out, their Captain, and calls out for me
to stay;
And he touch'd me on the shoulder, and he sez, 'Wot's
up, my lass?'
And I sez, 'I ain't teatotal!' and I larf'd, and tried to
pass,
But he look'd me in the face, he did, and sez, 'Wot
brings ye 'ere?'
Speak out, if you're in trouble, and we'll 'elp ye, never
fear!'
And I sez, 'I *ain't* in trouble!' but he looks me in the
eyes,
And he answers sharp and sudden, 'Don't you tell me
any *lies*—
The Lord Jesus 'ates a liar!' and at that I shut my fist,
I'd 'a struck 'im if 'ed let me, but he ketch'd me by the
wrist,
And he whisper'd, oh, so gentle, 'You're our sister, lass,'
he said,
'And to-night I think our sister 'as no place to lay her
'ed!
Come in — your friends are waitin' — they've been
waitin' many a day—
And at last you've come, my sister, and I think you've
come to stay!'"

*Glory! Hallelujah! Fighting for the Lord!
Sinners kneel before us, fearing fire and sword!
Nerer you take service with the Devil's crew—
Here you'll get promotion, if you're straight and true!*

*Jesus is Field-Marshal, Jesus, Heaven's King,
Points us forward, forward, while we*

March

And

Sing!

"Still a-playin' in the distance! 'Alleloojah! Fife and drum!

'Ere's my blessin' on the music, now I'm bound for Kingdom Come!

Well, that night?—They guv me shelter, and a shake-down nice and clean,

And no one ax'd no questions—who I was, or wot I'd been—

But next mornin' when I wakened, with a 'ed that split in two,

In there comes a nice old lady, and sez smilin', 'How d'ye do?'

And I nods and answers sulky, for 'she's come to preach,' thinks I,

But we gets in conversation, and at last, the Lord knows why,

I tells her about Bessie,—and I see her eyes grew dim, And outside, while I was talkin', sounds the loud Salvation 'ymn.

'Well,' sez she, 'she's gone to glory, and she's up among the blest,

For it's poor gels like your sister as Lord Jesus likes the best!'

And from that she got me talkin' of *myself*, and when she 'eard

All my story as I've told yer, up she got without a word, And she kiss'd me on the forrid! then she sez, 'All that's gone past!

And there's lots of life before you, now you've come to us at last!'

Then I larf'd—'I ain't Salvationist, and never mean to
be ;

Tho' a-prayin' and a-singin' may suit *you*, it won't suit
me !'

But she sez, 'You just 'ave patience, for the thing wot's
wrong with *you*

Is just this—you're downright wretched, all for want of
work to do !

One so pretty should be 'appy as a bird upon a tree '

(*Me* pretty ! and *me* 'appy !) 'for the Lord, my dear,' sez
she,

'Likes nice cheerful folks about Him, and can't bear to
see them sad,

For He's fond of fun and music, and of everythink that's
glad !'

Well, she got me work, and told me folks must labour
every one,

And I said I'd be teetotal (just to please her, and for fun !)

But I allays hated working, and my 'eart felt dull and
low,

And thinks I, 'The publick's better, and religion ain't
no go,'

For somethink black and 'eavy seem'd a-workin' in my
breast,

And I used to go 'ysteric, and I never felt at rest. . . .

But one mornin', when the Army was a-gatherin', I stood
by,

And they 'oller'd, 'Glory, glory, to our Father in the
sky !'

And I thought the tune was jolly, and I sang out loud
and gay,

And the minute I begun it, 'arf my trouble pass'd away,

And the louder as I sung it, that great lump I felt inside

Grew a-lighter and a-lighter, while I lep' and sung and
eried !

And when the song was over, up the Captain comes to me,

And he sez, 'That voice of yourn, Jane, is as good as any three!

Why, you're like a op'ry singer!' he sez, larfin'. . . .
'Never mind,'

He sez (for I look'd sulky, and his 'art was allays kind!)
'Never mind—there's many among us of such singin'
would be proud—

He's a long way off, is Jesus, so we've *got* to make it
loud!"

Then they march'd, and *I* went marchin', for I seem'd
gone mad that day,

And my 'art inside was dancin' every footstep of the way.
Yes, and that there singin' *saved* me! for the louder as I
sung,

Why, the more my load was lighten'd, and it seem'd as
how I sprung

From the ground right up to Jesus, and I 'eard Him
'oller clear,

'Keep a-marchin' and a-singin', for you've got to get up
'ere!'"

*Glory! Hallelujah! March along together!
March along, march along, every kind of weather!
Wet or dry, shower or shine, ready night and day,
Travelling to Jesus, singing on the way!
He is waiting for us, yonder in the sky,
Stooping down His shining head, to*

*Hear
Our
Cry!*

"Coming back? Ah, yes, I 'ear them, louder, louder, as
they come;

Lord, if I might only jine them, march ag'in, to fife and
drum!

. . . I feels faint. . . . A drop o' water!—There, I'm
better, but my 'ed
Is a-swimmin' to the music. . . . Now it's stop't. . . .
Wot's that ye said?
They're a-standing 'neath the windy? Lift me up, and let
me see,
For the sight of them as saved me is like life and breath
to me!
No, I can't!—all's black afore me—and my singin's
a'most done. . . .
Now, it's lighter! I can see them! all a-standing in the
sun!
Look, look, it's the Lord Jesus! He's a-formin' them in
a line,
His white 'orse is golden-bridled, and 'is eyes—see, how
they shine!
'E's a-speakin'! *Read the Roll-Call!* They're a-throngin'
one and all,
With their things in marchin' order, they're a-answ'rin' to
the call.
*My turn will soon be comin', for the march must soon
begin. . . .*
'Alleloojah Jane! That's me, sir! *Ready!* Ready, sir!
Fall in!"

L'ENVOI TO THE PRECEDING POEM.

NOUGHT is so base that Nature cannot turn
 It's dross to shining gold,
No lamb so lost that it may never learn
 The footpath to the fold.

Be sure this trampled clay beneath our feet
 Hath life as fair as ours,
Be sure this smell of foulness is as sweet
 As scents of fresh young flowers.

All is a mystery and a change,—a strife
 Of evil powers with good :
Sin is the leaven wherewith the bread of life
 Is fashion'd for our food.

God works with instruments as foul as these,
 Sifts Souls from dregs of sense,
Death is his shadow—Sorrow and Disease
 Are both his hand-maidens !

Out of the tangled woof of Day and Night
 His web of Life is spun :
Dust in the beam is just as surely Light
 As yonder shining Sun !

THE GOOD PROFESSOR'S CREED.

(INSCRIBED TO PROFESSOR HUXLEY.)

My creed, without circumlocution,
I thus deliver clear and pat :
I do believe in Evolution,
In Protoplasm, and all that !
I do believe in all the 'ologies,
(Except The-ology, of course !)
But common, cocksure, Useful Knowledge is
The compass which directs my course.

I don't believe in God or Gammon,
In powers above or priests below,
But I've some slight respect for Mammon
As representing *Status quô* ;
I hate all efforts revolutionary,
All systems that subvert the State,
For Law is slow and evolutionary,
And those low down have got—to wait !

Unless (that fact I should have stated !)
Unless they're led by Lights like me ;
For Evolution, though 'tis fated,
By gentle Force may further'd be :
In fact, I hold like my existence,
Since nothing in the world is free,
That Force to which there's no resistance
Is always justified, *per se* !

I turn from all insipid dishes
Cook'd by the fools of *Laissez faire*,
And much prefer the loaves and fishes,
So long as *I* can get my share ;

I think the Land is *not* the Nation's,
But those who grab'd it in the past ;
Statutes, therefore, of limitations,
Should make all Thieves secure, at last !

I don't believe men free and equal
(*I think so ? Feel my bumps, and tell !*)
Of all such fads the sorry sequel
Is anarchy and social Hell ;
I do believe in " facts " prodigiously,
Class, label, place them on the shelf,
I do believe (almost religiously !)
In that most precious Fact, Myself !

I'm many-sided, many-coloured,
Socialist, Individualist,
I do believe that man a dullard
Who seeks philanthropies of mist ;
I hold that General Booth's tyrannical,
And all his scheme of social aid
Is just Religion turn'd mechanical—
A Barrel-organ badly played !

I think that Liberty's a swindle !
We look upon it with a smile—
I and my dear Professor Tyndall,
The Peter Parleys of Carlyle !
He knew the " nigger " was " a servant "
By law of God, or (what's the same)
By laws proclaimed by prophets fervent
Of Nature's Tory end and aim !

I turn from every sect and schism,
God and all gods I leave behind,
I snceer at even Positivism,
Because it deifies Mankind :

Such creeds are either false or flighty,
Since men are flesh and flesh is grass, . . .
And yet . . . one knowing God Almighty
Regards me—from the looking-glass!

I do believe that Superstition,
And what they call "the larger Hope,"
Have fled before the new condition
Of self-reliance and of soap :
Free from the falsehoods of Divinity,
Breaking the bonds by preachers spun,
I leave the old creed of the Trinity
For the new creed of Number One !

Moral and physical diseases
May be effaced in course of time,
But, left to do whate'er he pleases,
Man leaps from folly into crime :
We've got to wash and comb and teach him,
Learn him the laws of self-control,
Wean him from doctrinaires who teach him
Rubbish about that gas, his Soul !

Be clean, be calm, be thrifty ! These are
My chief injunctions to the Poor,
Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar,
Don't even begrudge a little more !
Be very careful in your reading,
Avoid imaginative stuff ;
Study the rules of cattle-breeding,
And when you pair, cry "*quantum suff.*"

To advance the human race I'm willing,
So long as it is shrewdly done,
But never will I give one shilling
To any "fad" beneath the sun ;

While the worst fad of all is "Piety,"
With all its cant of Heaven o'erhead,
Philanthropy's a bad variety
Of that same fad, when all is said !

And so I sit with calm pulsations,
Watching the troubled human fry,
Examining their agitations
With careful microscopic eye !
I, Thomas, *Omnium Scrutator*,
Finding most creatures mean or base,
Despise your *Hominum Salvator* !
Man's duty is—to keep his place !

THE BALLAD OF JUDAS ISCARIOT.

'Twas the body of Judas Iscariot
Lay in the Field of Blood ;
'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Beside the body stood.

Black was the earth by night,
And black was the sky ;
Black, black were the broken clouds,
Tho' the red Moon went by.

'Twas the body of Judas Iscariot
Strangled and dead lay there ;
'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Look'd on it in despair.

The breath of the World came and went
Like a sick man's in rest ;
Drop by drop on the World's eyes
The dews fell cool and blest.

Then the soul of Judas Iscariot
Did make a gentle moan—
“ I will bury underneath the ground
My flesh and blood and bone.

“ I will bury them deep beneath the soil,
Lest mortals look thereon,
And when the wolf and raven come
The body will be gone !

“ The stones of the field are sharp as steel,
And hard and cold, God wot ;
And I must bear my body hence
Until I find a spot ! ”

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot,
So grim, and gaunt, and gray,
Raised the body of Judas Iscariot,
And carried it away.

And as he bare it from the field
Its touch was cold as ice,
And the ivory teeth within the jaw
Rattled aloud, like dice.

As the soul of Judas Iscariot
Carried its load with pain,
The Eye of Heaven, like a lanthorn's eye,
Open'd and shut again.

Half he walk'd, and half he seem'd
Lifted on the cold wind ;
He did not turn, for chilly hands
Were pushing from behind.

The first place that he came unto
It was the open wold,
And underneath were prickly whins,
And a wind that blew so cold.

The next place that he came unto
It was a stagnant pool,
And when he threw the body in,
It floated light as wool.

He drew the body on his back,
And it was dripping chill,
And the next place he came unto
Was a Cross upon a hill.

A Cross upon the windy hill,
And a Cross on either side,
Three skeletons that swing thereon,
Who had been crucified.

And on the middle cross-bar sat
A white Dove slumbering;
Dim it sat in the dim light,
With its head beneath its wing.

And underneath the middle Cross
A grave yawn'd wide and vast,
But the soul of Judas Iscariot
Sliver'd and glided past.

The fourth place that he came unto
It was the Brig of Dread,
And the great torrents rushing down
Were deep, and swift, and red.

He dared not fling the body in
For fear of faces dim,
And arms were waved in the wild water
To thrust it back to him.

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Turned from the Brig of Dread,
And the dreadful foam of the wild water
Had splash'd the body red.

For days and nights he wander'd on
Upon an open plain,
And the days went by like blinding mist,
And the nights like rushing rain.

For days and nights he wander'd on,
All thro' the Wood of Woe;
And the nights went by like moaning wind,
And the days like drifting snow.

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Came with a weary face—
Alone, alone, and all alone,
Alone in a lonely place!

He wander'd east, he wander'd west,
And heard no human sound ;
For months and years, in grief and tears,
He wander'd round and round.

For months and years, in grief and tears,
He walk'd the silent night ;
Then the soul of Judas Iscariot
Perceived a far-off light.

A far-off light across the waste,
As dim as dim might be,
That came and went like the lighthouse gleam
On a black night at sea.

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Crawl'd to the distant gleam ;
And the rain came down, and the rain was blown
Against him with a scream.

For days and nights he wander'd on,
Pushed on by hands behind ;
And the days went by like black, black rain,
And the nights like rushing wind.

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot,
Strange, and sad, and tall,
Stood all alone at dead of night
Before a lighted hall.

And the world was white with snow,
And his foot-marks black and damp,
And the ghost of the silver Moon arose,
Holding her yellow lamp.

And the icicles were on the eaves,
And the walls were deep with white,
And the shadows of the guests within
Pass'd on the window light.

The shadows of the wedding guests
Did strangely come and go,
And the body of Judas Iscariot
Lay stretch'd along the snow.

The body of Judas Iscariot
Lay stretch'd along the snow ;
'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Ran swiftly to and fro.

To and fro, and up and down,
He ran so swiftly there,
As round and round the frozen Pole
Glideth the lean white bear.

'Twas the Bridegroom sat at the table-head,
And the lights burnt bright and clear—
“Oh, who is that,” the Bridegroom said,
“Whose weary feet I hear?”

'Twas one who look'd from the lighted hall,
And answer'd soft and low,
“It is a wolf runs up and down,
With a black track in the snow.”

The Bridegroom in His robe of white
Sat at the table-head—
“Oh, who is he that moans without?”
The blessed Bridegroom said.

'Twas one who look'd from the lighted hall,
And answer'd fierce and low,
“'Tis the soul of Judas Iscariot
Gliding to and fro.”

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Did hush itself and stand,
And saw the Bridegroom at the door
With a light in His hand.

The Bridegroom stood in the open door,
And He was clad in white,
And far within the Lord's Supper
Was spread so broad and bright.

The Bridegroom shaded His eyes and look'd,
And His face was bright to see—
“What dost thou here at the Lord's Supper
With thy body's sins?” said He.

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Stood black, and sad, and bare—
“I have wander'd many nights and days;
There is no light elsewhere.”

'Twas the wedding guests cried out within,
And their eyes were fierce and bright—
“Scourge the soul of Judas Iscariot
Away into the night!”

The Bridegroom stood in the open door,
And He waved hands still and slow,
And the third time that He waved His hands
The air was thick with snow.

And of every flake of falling snow,
Before it touch'd the ground,
There came a dove, and a thousand doves
Made sweet sound.

'Twas the body of Judas Iscariot
Floated away full fleet,
And the wings of the doves that bare it off
Were like its winding-sheet.

'Twas the Bridegroom stood at the open door,
And beckon'd, smiling sweet;
'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot
Stole in, and fell at His feet.

“The Holy Supper is spread within,
And the many candles shine,
And I have waited long for thee
Before I pour'd the wine !”

The supper wine is pour'd at last,
The lights burn bright and fair,
Iscaiot washes the Bridegroom's feet,
And dries them with his hair.

NIGHTINGALE-SONG.

DEEPER now our raptures grow,
Softlier our voices croon !
Yet more slow
Let our happy music flow,
Sweet and slow, hush'd and low,
Now a dark cloud veils the Moon . . .
Sweet, O sweet !
Watch her while our wild hearts beat ! . . .
See ! she quits the clasping cloud,
Forth she sails on silvern feet,
Smiling, with her bright head bow'd !
Pour the living rapture loud !
Thick and fleet,
Sweet, O sweet !
Now the notes of rapture crowd !

FRA GIACOMO.

I.

ALAS, Fra Giacomo,
Too late! but follow me . . .
Hush! draw the curtain—so!
She is dead, quite dead, you see.
Poor little lady! she lies,
All the light gone out of her eyes!
But her features still wear that soft,
Gray, meditative expression,
Which you must have noticed oft,
Thro' the peephole, at confession.
How saintly she looks, how meek!
Though this be the chamber of death,
I fancy I feel her breath,
As I kiss her on the cheek.
Too holy for *me*, by far!—
As cold and as pure as a star,
Not fashioned for kissing and pressing,
But made for a heavenly crown! . . .
Ay, Father, let us go down,—
But first, if you please, your blessing.

II.

. . . Wine? No! Come, come, you must!
Blessing it with your prayers,
You'll quaff a cup, I trust,
To the health of the Saint upstairs.
My heart is aching so!
And I feel so weary and sad,
Through the blow that I have had!
You'll sit, Fra Giacomo? . . .

III.

Heigho! 'tis now six summers
Since I saw that Angel and married her—
I was passing rich, and I carried her
Off in the face of all comers . . .
So fresh, yet so brimming with Soul!
A sweeter morsel, I swear,
Never made the dull black coal
Of a monk's eye glitter and glare . . .
Your pardon—nay, keep your chair!—
A jest! but a jest! . . . Very true,
It is hardly becoming to jest,
And that Saint upstairs at rest—
Her Soul may be listening, too!
To think how I doubted and doubted,
Suspected, grumbled at, flouted
That golden-hair'd Angel, and solely
Because she was zealous and holy!—
Night and noon and morn
She devoted herself to piety—
Not that she seemed to scorn,
Or shun, her husband's society;
But the claims of her Soul superseded
All that I asked for or needed,
And her thoughts were far away
From the level of lustful clay,
And she trembled lest earthly matters
Interfered with her *aces* and *paters*!
Sweet dove! she so fluttered in flying
To avoid the black vapours of Hell,
So bent on self-sanctifying,—
That she never thought of trying
To save her poor husband as well!
And while she was named and elected
For place on the heavenly roll,

I (beast that I was) suspected

Her method of saving her Soul—
So half for the fun of the thing,
What did I (blasphemer) but fling
On my shoulders the gown of a monk,
(Whom I managed for that very day
To get safely out of the way),
And seat me, half-sober, half-drunk,
With the cowl drawn over my face,
In the Father Confessor's place . . .

Eheu ! benedicite !

In her beautiful sweet simplicity,
With that pensive gray expression,
She sighfully knelt at confession,—
While I bit my lips till they bled,

And dug my nails in my palm,
And heard, with averted head,
The horrible words come calm—

Each word was a serpent's sting ;
But, wrapt in my gloomy gown,
I sat like a marble thing

As she uttered *your* name. SIT DOWN !

IV.

More wine, Fra Giacomo ?
One cup—as you love me ! No ?
Come, drink ! 'twill bring the streaks
Of crimson back to your cheeks.
Come ! drink again to the Saint,
Whose virtues you loved to paint,
Who, stretched on her wifely bed,
With the soft, sweet, gray expression
You saw and admired at confession—
Lies *poisoned*, overhead !

v.

Sit still—or, by God, you die !
Face to face, soul to soul, you and I
Have settled accounts, in a fine
Pleasant fashion, over our wine—
Stir not, and seek not to fly—
Nay, whether or not, you are mine !
Thank Montepulciano for giving
Your death in such delicate sips—
'Tis not every monk ceases living
With so pleasant a taste on his lips—
But lest Montepulciano unsurely should kiss,
Take this !—and this !—and this !

vi.

. . . Raise him ; and cast him, Pietro,
Into the deep canal below :
You can be secret, lad, I know . . .
And, hark you, then to the convent go—
Bid every bell of the convent toll,
And the monks say mass, for your Mistress's soul.

CHARMIAN.

Cleo. Charmian !

Char. Madam ?

Cleo. Give me to drink mandragora !

Anthony and Cleopatra.

In the time when water-lilies shake
Their green and gold on river and lake,
When the cuckoo calls in the heart o' the heat,
When the Dog-star foams and the shade is sweet ;
Where cool and fresh the River ran,
I sat by the side of the Charmian,
And heard no sound from the world of Man.

All was so sweet and still that day !
The rustling shade, the rippling stream,
All life, all breath dissolved away
Into a golden dream ;
Warm and sweet the scented shade
Drowsily caught the breeze and stirred,
Faint and low through the green glade
Came hum of bee and song of bird.
Our hearts were full of sleepy bliss,
And yet we did not clasp or kiss,
Nor did we break the happy spell
With tender tone or syllable.
But to ease our hearts and set thought free,
We pluckt the flowers of a red rose-tree,
And, leaf by leaf, we threw them, Sweet,
Into the River at our feet,
And in an indolent delight
Watch'd them glide onward, slowly, out of sight.

Sweet, had I spoken boldly then,
How might my love have garner'd thee !
But I had left the paths of men,
And sitting yonder, dreamily,
Was happiness enough for me !
Seeking no gift of word or kiss,
But looking in thy face, was bliss !
Plucking the rose-leaves in a dream,
Watching them glimmer down the stream,
Knowing that eastern heart of thine
Shared the dim ecstasy of mine !

Then, while we linger'd, cold and gray
Came Twilight, chilling soul and sense ;
And you arose to go away,
Full of divine indifference !
I missed the spell—I watched it break,—
And such come never twice to man :
In a less golden hour I spake,
And did *not* win thee, Charmian !

For wearily we turned away
Into the world of everyday,
And from thy heart the fancy fled
Like the rose-leaves on the River shed ;
But to me that hour is sweeter far
Than the world and all its treasures are :
Still to sit on, so close to thee,
Were Paradise enough for me !
Still to sit on, in a green nook,
Nor break the spell by word or look !
To reach out happy hands for ever,
To pluck the rose-leaves, Charmian !
To watch them fade on the gleaming River,
And hear no sound from the world of Man !

THE WAKE OF O'HARA.

(SEVEN DIALS).

To the Wake of O'Hara
Came companie ;
All St. Patrick's Alley
Was there to see,
With the friends and kinsmen
Of the family.

On the long deal table lay Tim in white,
And at his pillow the burning light.
Pale as himself, with the tears on her cheek,
The mother received us, too full to speak ;
But she heap'd the fire, and on the board
Set the black bottle with never a word,
While the company gather'd, one and all,
Men and women, big and small—
Not one in the Alley but felt a call
To the Wake of Tim O'Hara.

At the face of O'Hara,
All white with sleep,
Not one of the women
But took a peep,
And the wives new-wedded
Began to weep.

The mothers gather'd round about,
And praised the linen and laying-out,—
For white as snow was his winding-sheet,
And all was peaceful, and clean, and sweet ;
And the old wives, praising the blessed dead,
Were thronging round the old press-bed,

Where O'Hara's widow, tatter'd and torn,
Held to her bosom the babe new-born,
And stared all around her, with eyes forlorn,
At the Wake of Tim O'Hara.

For the heart of O'Hara
Was good as gold,
And the life of O'Hara
Was bright and bold,—
The boy was the darling
Of young and old !

Gay as a guinea, wet or dry,
With a smiling mouth and a twinkling eye !
Had ever an answer for chaff and fun ;
Would fight like a lion, with any one !
Not a neighbour of any trade
But knew some joke that the boy had made ;
Not a neighbour, dull or bright,
But minded *something*—frolic or fight,
And whisper'd it round the fire that night,
At the Wake of Tim O'Hara !

“ To God be glory
In death and life,
He's taken O'Hara
From trouble and strife ! ”
Said one-eyed Biddy,
The apple-wife.

“ God bless ould Ireland ! ” said Mistress Hart,
Mother to Mike of the donkey-cart ;
“ God bless ould Ireland till all be done,
She never made wake for a better son ! ”
And all join'd chorus, and each one said
Something kind of the boy that was dead ;
And the bottle went round from lip to lip,
And the weeping widow, for fellowship,

Took the glass of old Biddy and had a sip,
At the Wake of Tim O'Hara.

Then we drank to O'Hara,
With drams to the brim,
While the face of O'Hara
Look'd on so grim,
In the corpse-light shining
Yellow and dim.

The cup of liquor went round again,
And the talk grew louder at every drain;
Louder the tongues of the women grew!—
The lips of the boys were loosening too!
The widow her weary eyelids closed,
And, soothed by the drop o' drink, she dozed;
The mother brighten'd and laugh'd to hear
Of O'Hara's fight with the grenadier,
And the hearts of all took better cheer,
At the Wake of Tim O'Hara.

Tho' the face of O'Hara
Lookt on so wan,
In the chimney-corner
The row began—
Lame Tony was in it,
The oyster-man;

For a dirty low thief from the North came near,
And whistled "Boyne Water" in his ear,
And Tony, with never a word of grace,
Flung out his fist in the blackguard's face;
And the girls and women scream'd out for fright,
And the men that were drunkest began to fight,—
Over the tables and chairs they threw,—
The corpse-light tumbled,—the shindy grew,—
The new-born join'd in the hullabaloo,—
At the Wake of Tim O'Hara.

“ Be still ! be silent !
Ye do a sin !
Shame be his portion
Who dares begin ! ”
’Twas Father O’Connor
Just enter’d in !—

All look’d down, and the row was done—
And shamed and sorry was every one ;
But the Priest just smiled quite easy and free—
“ Would ye wake the poor boy from his sleep ? ” said he :
And he said a prayer, with a shining face,
Till a kind of a brightness fill’d the place ;
The women lit up the dim corpse-light,
The men were quieter at the sight,
And the peace of the Lord fell on all that night
At the Wake of Tim O’Hara !

THE WEDDING OF SHON MACLEAN.

A BAGPIPE BALLAD.

To the Wedding of Shon Maclean,
Twenty Pipers together
Came in the wind and the rain
Playing across the heather ;
Backward their ribbons flew,
Blast upon blast they blew,
Each clad in tartan new,
Bonnet, and blackcock feather :
And every Piper was fou,*
Twenty Pipers together ! . . .

He's but a Sassenach blind and vain
Who never heard of Shon Maclean—
The Duke's own Piper, called "Shon the Fair,"
From his freckled skin and his fiery hair.
Father and son, since the world's creation,
The Macleans had followed this occupation,
And played the pibroch to fire the clan
Since the first Duke came and the Earth began.
Like the whistling of birds, like the humming of
bees,
Like the sigh of the south-wind in the trees,
Like the singing of angels, the playing of shawms,
Like Ocean itself with its storms and its calms,
Were the strains of Shon, when with cheeks
afame
He blew a blast thro' the pipes of fame.

* Pronounce *fou*—*i.e.*, 'half seas over,' intoxicated.

At last, in the prime of his playing life,
The spirit moved him to take a wife—
A lassie with eyes of Highland blue,
Who love the pipes and the Piper too,
And danced to the sound, with a foot and a leg
White as a lily and smooth as an egg.
So, twenty Pipers were coming together
O'er the moor and across the heather,
All in the wind and the rain :
Twenty Pipers so brawly dressed
Were flocking in from the east and the west,
To bless the bedding and blow their best
At the Wedding of Shon Maclean.

At the Wedding of Shon Maclean
'Twas wet and windy weather !
Yet, thro' the wind and the rain
Came twenty Pipers together !
Earach and Dougal Dhu,
Sandy of Isla too,
Each with the bonnet o' blue,
Tartan, and blackcock feather :
And every Piper was fou,
Twenty Pipers together !

The knot was tied, the blessing said,
Shon was married, the feast was spread.
At the head of the table sat, huge and hoar,
Strong Sandy of Isla, age fourscore,
Whisker'd, grey as a Haskeir seal,
And clad in crimson from head to heel
Beneath and round him in their degree
Gathered the men of minstrelsie,
With keepers, gillies, and lads and lasses,
Mingling voices, and jingling glasses.

At soup and haggis, at roast and boil'd,
Awhile the happy gathering toil'd,—
While Shon and Jean at the table ends
Shook hands with a hundred of their friends.—
Then came a hush. Thro' the open door
A wee bright form flash'd on the floor,—
The Duke himself, in the kilt and plaid,
With slim soft knees, like the knees of a maid.
And he took a glass, and he cried out plain,
“ I drink to the health of Shon Maclean !
To Shon the Piper and Jean his wife,
A clean fireside and a merry life ! ”
Then out he slipt, and each man sprang
To his feet, and with “ hooch ” the chamber rang !
“ Clear the tables ! ” shriek'd out one—
A leap, a scramble,—and it was done !
And then the Pipers all in a row
Tuned their pipes and began to blow,
While all to dance stood fain :
Sandy of Isla and Earach More,
Dougal Dhu from Kilflannan shore,
Played up the company on the floor
At the Wedding of Shon Maclean.

At the Wedding of Shon Maclean,
Twenty Pipers together
Stood up, while all their train
Ceased to clatter and blether.
Full of the mountain-dew,
First in their pipes they blew,
Mighty of bone and thew,
Red-cheek'd, with lungs of leather :
And every Piper was fou,
Twenty Pipers together !

Who led the dance? In pomp and pride
The Duke himself led out the Bride!
Great was the joy of each beholder,
For the wee Duke only reach'd her shoulder;
And they danced, and turned, when the reel began,
Like a giantess and a fairie man!
But like an earthquake was the din
When Shon himself led the Duchess in!
And she took her place before him there,
Like a white mouse dancing with a bear!
So trim and tiny, so slim and sweet,
Her blue eyes watching Shon's great feet,
With a smile that could not be resisted,
She jigged, and jumped, and twirl'd, and twisted!
Sandy of Isla led off the reel,
The Duke began it with toe and heel,
Then all join'd in amain;
Twenty Pipers ranged in a row,
From squinting Shamus to lame Kilroe,
Their cheeks like crimson, began to blow,
At the Wedding of Shon Maclean.

At the Wedding of Shon Maclean
They blew with their lungs of leather,
And blithesome was the strain
Those Pipers played together!
Moist with the mountain dew,
Mighty of bone and thew,
Each with the bonnet o' blue,
Tartan, and blackcock feather:
And every Piper was fou,
Twenty Pipers together!

Oh for a wizard's tongue to tell
Of all the wonders that befel!

Of how the Duke, when the first stave died,
Reached up on tiptoe to kiss the Bride,
While Sandy's pipes, as their mouths were meeting,
Skirl'd, and set every heart abeating !
Then Shon took the pipes ! and all was still,
As silently he the bags did fill,
With flaming cheeks and round bright eyes,
Till the first faint music began to rise.
Like a thousand laverocks singing in tune,
Like countless corn-craiks under the moon,
Like the smack of kisses, like kirk bells ringing,
Like a mermaid's harp, or a kelpie singing,
Blew the pipes of Shon ; and the witching strain
Was the gathering song of the Clan Maclean !
Then slowly, softly, at his side,
All the Pipers around replied,
And swelled the solemn strain :
The hearts of all were proud and light,
To hear the music, to see the sight,
And the Duke's own eyes were dim that night,
At the Wedding of Shon Maclean.

So to honour the Clan Maclean
Straight they began to gather,
Blowing the wild refrain,
" Blue bonnets across the heather ! "
They stamp'd, they strutted, they blew ;
They shriek'd ; like cocks they crew ;
Blowing the notes out true,
With wonderful lungs of leather :
And every Piper was fou,
Twenty Pipers together !

When the Duke and Duchess went away
The dance grew mad and the guests grew gay ;

Man and maiden, face to face,
Leapt and footed and scream'd apace !
Round and round the dancers whirl'd,
Shriller, louder, the Pipers skirl'd,
Till the soul seem'd swooning into sound,
And all Creation was whirling round !
Then, in a pause of the dance and glee,
The Pipers, ceasing their minstrelsie,
Draining the glass in groups did stand,
And passed the sneesh-box* from hand to hand.
Sandy of Isla, with locks of snow,
Squinting Shamus, blind Kilmahoe,
Finlay Beg, and Earach More,
Dougal Dhu of Kilflannan shore—
All the Pipers, black, yellow, and green,
All the colours that ever were seen,
All the Pipers of all the Macs,
Gather'd together and took their cracks. †
Then (no man knows how the thing befel,
For none was sober enough to tell)
These heavenly Pipers from twenty places
Began disputing with crimson faces ;
Each asserting, like one demented,
The claims of the Clan *he* represented.
In vain grey Sandy of Isla strove
To soothe their struggle with words of love,
Asserting there, like a gentleman,
The superior claims of his own great Clan ;
Then, finding to reason is despair,
He seizes his pipes and plays an air—
The gathering tune of his Clan—and tries
To drown in music the shrieks and cries !
Heavens ! Every Piper, grown mad with ire,
Seizes *his* pipes with a fierce desire,

* Snuff-box.

† Conversed sociably.

And blowing madly, with skirl and squeak,
Begins *his* particular tune to shriek !
Up and down the gamut they go,
Twenty Pipers, all in a row,
 Each with a different strain !
Each tries hard to drown the first,
Each blows louder till like to burst.
Thus were the tunes of the Clans rehearst
 At the Wedding of Shon Maclean !

At the Wedding of Shon Maclean,
 Twenty Pipers together,
Blowing with might and main,
 Thro' wonderful lungs of leather !
Wild was the hullabaloo !
They stamp'd, they scream'd, they crew !
Twenty strong blasts they blew,
 Holding the heart in tether :
And every Piper was fou,
 Twenty Pipers together !

A storm of music ! Like wild sleuth-hounds
Contending together, were the sounds !
At last a bevy of Eve's bright daughters
Pour'd oil—that's whisky—upon the waters ;
And after another dram went down
The Pipers chuckled and ceased to frown,
Embraced like brothers and kindred spirits,
And fully admitted each other's merits.
All bliss must end ! For now the Bride
Was looking weary and heavy-eyed,
And soon she stole from the drinking chorus,
While the company settled to *deoch-an-dorus*.*

*The parting glass ; lit. the *cup at the door*.

One hour—another—took its flight—
The clock struck twelve—the dead of night—
And still the Bride like a rose so red
Lay lonely up in the bridal bed,
At half-past two the Bridegroom, Shon,
Dropt on the table as heavy as stone,
But four strong Pipers across the floor
Carried him up to the bridal door,
Push'd him in at the open portal,
And left him snoring, serene and mortal !
The small stars twinkled over the heather,
As the Pipers wandered away together,
But one by one on the journey dropt,
Clutching his pipes, and there he stopt !
One by one on the dark hillside
Each faint blast of the bagpipes died,
Amid the wind and the rain !
And the twenty Pipers at break of day
In twenty different bogholes lay,
Serenely sleeping upon their way
From the Wedding of Shon Maclean !

PHIL BLOOD'S LEAP.

THERE's some think Injins pison, and others count 'em
 scum,
 And night and day they are melting away, clean into
 Kingdom Come ;
 But don't you go and make mistakes, like many dern'd
 fools I've known,
 For dirt is dirt, and snakes is snakes, but an Injin's flesh
 and bone !

We were seeking gold in the Texan hold, and we'd had a
 blaze of luck,
 More rich and rare the stuff ran there at every foot we
 struck ;
 Like men gone wild we t'iled and t'iled, and never
 seemed to tire,
 The hot sun beamed, and our faces streamed with the
 sweat of a mad desire.

I was Captain then of the mining men, and I had a
 precious life,
 For a wilder set I never met at derringer and knife ;
 Nigh every day there was some new fray, a bullet in
 some one's brain,
 And the viciosest brute to stab and to shoot was an
 Imp of Hell from Maine.

Phil Blood. Well, he was six foot three, with a squint
 to make you skeer'd,
 His face all scabb'd, and twisted and stabb'd, with carrotty
 hair and beard,
 Sour as the drink in Bitter Chink, sharp as a grizzly's
 squeal,
 Limp in one leg, for a leaden egg had nick'd him in the
 heel.

No beauty was he, but a sight to see, all stript to the
waist and bare,
With his grim-set jaws, and his panther claws, and his
hawk's eye all aglare ;
With pick and spade in sun and shade he laboured like
darnation,
But when his spell was over,--well ! he was fond of his
recreation !

And being a crusty kind of cuss, the only sport he had,
When work was over, seemed to *us* a bit too rough and
bad ;
For to put some lead in a comrade's head was the greatest
fun in life,
And the sharpest joke he was known to poke was the
p'int of his precious knife.

But game to the bone was Phil, I'll own, and he always
fought most fair,
With as good a will to be killed as kill, true grit as any
there :
Of honour too, like me or you, he'd a scent, though not
so keen,
Would rather be riddled thro' and thro' than do what he
thought mean.

But his eddication to his ruination had not been over
nice,
And his stupid skull was choking full of vulgar pre-
judice ;
With anything white he'd drink, or he'd fight in fair and
open fray ;
But to murder and kill was his wicked will, if an Injin
came his way !

“ A serpent’s hide has pison inside, and an Injin’s heart’s
the same,
If he seems your friend for to gain his end, look out for
the serpent’s game ;
Of the snakes that crawl, the worst of all is the snake in
a skin of red,
A spotted Snake, and no mistake?” that’s what he always
said.

Well, we’d jest struck our bit of luck, and were wild as
raving men,
When, who should stray to our camp one day, but Black
Panther, the Cheyenne ;
Drest like a Christian, all a-grin, the old one joins our
band,
And tho’ the rest look’d black as sin, he shakes *me* by the
hand.

Now, the poor old cuss had been good to us, and I knew
that he was true,—
I’d have trusted him with life and limb as soon as I’d
trust *you* ;
For tho’ his wit was gone a bit, and he drank like any
fish,
His heart was kind, he was well-inclined, as even a white
could wish.

Food had got low, for we didn’t know the run of the
hunting ground,
And our hunters were sick, when, jest in the nick, the
friend in need was found ;
For he knew the place like his mother’s face (or better, a
heap, you’d say,
Since she was a squaw of the roaming race, and himself
a cast-away).

Well, I took the Panther into camp, and the critter was
well content,
And off with him, on the hunting tramp, next day our
hunters went,
And I reckon that day and the next we didn't want for
food,
And only one in the camp looked vext—that Imp of Hell,
Phil Blood.

Nothing would please his contrairy idees! an Injin made
him rile!
He didn't speak, but I saw on his cheek a kind of an
ugly smile;
And I knew his skin was hatching sin, and I kept the
Panther apart,
For the Injin he was too blind to see the dirt in a white
man's heart!

Well, one fine day, we a-resting lay at noon-time by the
creek,
The red sun blazed, and we felt half-dazed, too beat to
stir or speak;
'Neath the alder trees we stretched at ease, and we
couldn't see the sky,
For the lian-flowers in bright blue showers hung through
the boughs on high.

It was like the gleam of a fairy dream, and I felt like
earth's first Man,
In an Eden bower, with the yellow flower of a cactus for
a fan;
Oranges, peaches, grapes, and figs, cluster'd, ripen'd, and
fell,
And the cedar scent was pleasant, blent with the soothing
cacia smell.

The squirrels red ran overhead, and I saw the lizards
creep,
And the woodpecker bright with the chest so white tapt
like a sound in sleep;
I dreamed and dozed with eyes half-closed, and felt like
a three-year child,
And, a plantain blade on his brow for a shade, even Phil
Blood look'd mild.

Well, back, jest then, came our hunting men, with the
Panther at their head,
Full of his fun was every one, and the Panther's eyes
were red,
And he skipt about with grin and shout, for he'd had a
drop that day,
And he twisted and twirled, and squeal'd and skirl'd, in
the foolish Injin way.

To the waist all bare Phil Blood lay there, with only his
knife in his belt,
And I saw his bloodshot eye-balls stare, and I knew how
ugly he felt,—
When the Injin dances with grinning glances around him
as he lies,
With his painted skin and his monkey grin,—and leers
into his eyes!

Then before I knew what I should do Phil Blood was on
his feet,
And the Injin could trace the hate in his face, and his
heart began to beat,
And, "Git out o' the way," he heard them say, "for he
means to hev your life!"
But before he could fly at the warning cry, he saw the
flash of the knife.

“Run, Panther, run!” cried each mother’s son, and the
Panther took the track;
With a wicked glare, like a wounded bear, Phil Blood
sprang at his back.
Up the side so steep of the cañon deep the poor old
critter sped,
And the devil’s limb ran after him, till they faded over-
head.

Now, the spot of ground where our luck was found was a
queerish place, you’ll mark,
Jest under the jags of the mountain crags and the preci-
pices dark,
Far up on high, close to the sky, the two crags leant to-
gether,
Leaving a gap, like an open trap, with a gleam of golden
weather.

A pathway led from the beck’s dark bed up to the crags
on high,
And along that path the Injin fled, fast as a man could
fly.
Some shots were fired, for I desired to keep the white
beast back;
But I missed my man, and away he ran on the flying
Injin’s track.

Now all below is thick, you know, with ’eacia, alder, and
pine,
And the bright shrubs deck the side of the beck, and the
lian flowers so fine,
For the forest creeps all under the steeps, and feathers
the feet of the crags
With boughs so thick that your path you pick like a
steamer among the snags.

But right above you, the crags, Lord love you! are bare
as this here hand,
And your eyes you wink at the bright blue chink, as
looking up you stand.
If a man should pop in that trap at the top, he'd never
rest arm or leg,
Till neck and crop to the bottom he'd drop—and smash
on the stones like an egg!

“Come back, you cuss! come back to us! and let the
critter be!”

I screamed out loud, while the men in a crowd stood
grinning at them and me . . .

But up they went, and my shots were spent, and at last
they disappeared,—

One minute more, and we gave a roar, for the Injin had
leapt,—and *cleared*!

A leap for a deer, not a man, to clear,—and the bloodiest
grave below!

But the critter was smart and mad with fear, and he went
like a bolt from a bow!

Close after him came the devil's limb, with his face set
grim as death,

But when he came to the gulch's brim, I reckon he paused
for breath!

For breath at the brink! but—a white man shrink, when
a red had passed so neat?

I knew Phil Blood too well to think he'd turn his back
dead beat!

He takes one run, leaps up in the sun, and bounds from
the slippery ledge,

And he clears the hole, but—God help his soul!—just
touches the tother edge!

One scrambling fall, one shriek, one call, from the men
that stand and stare,—
Black in the blue where the sky looks thro', he staggers,
dwarf'd up there;
The edge he touches, then sinks, and clutches the rock
—our eyes grow dim—
I turn away—what's that they say?—he's a-hanging on
to the brim!

. . . On the very brink of the fatal chink a ragged
shrub there grew,
And to that he clung, and in silence swung betwixt us
and the blue,
And as soon as a man could run I ran the way I'd 'seen
them flee,
And I came mad-eyed to the chasm's side, and—what do
you think I see?

All up? Not quite. Still hanging? Right! But he'd torn
away the shrub;
With lolling tongue he clutch'd and swung—to what?
ay, that's the rub!
I saw him glare and dangle in air,—for the empty hole he
trode,—
Help'd by a *pair of hands* up there!—The Injin's? Yes,
by God!

Now boys, look here! for many a year I've roam'd in
this here land—
And many a sight both day and night I've seen that I
think grand;
Over the whole wide world I've been, and I know both
things and men,
But the biggest sight I've ever seen was the sight I saw
jest then.

I held my breath—so nigh to death Phil Blood swung
hand and limb,
And it seemed to us all that down he'd fall, with the
Panther after him,
But the Injin at length put out his strength—and another
moment past,—
—Then safe and sound to the solid ground he drew Phil
Blood, at last!!

Saved? True for you! By an Injin too!—and the man
he meant to kill!
There, all alone, on the brink of stone, I see them stand-
ing still;
Phil Blood gone white, with the struggle and fright, like
a great mad bull at bay,
And the Injin meanwhile, with a half-skeer'd smile, ready
to spring away.

What did Phil do? Well, I watched the two, and I saw
Phil Blood turn back,
Bend over the brink and take a blink right down the
chasm black,
Then stooping low for a moment or so, he sheath'd his
bowie bright,
Spat slowly down, and watch'd with a frown, as the
spittle sank from sight!

Hands in his pockets, eyes downcast, silent, thoughtful,
and grim,
While the Panther, grinning as he passed, still kept his
eyes on him,
Phil Blood strolled slow to his mates below, down by the
mountain track,
With his lips set tight and his face all white, and the
Panther at his back.

I reckon they stared when the two appeared! but never
a word Phil spoke,
Some of them laughed and others jeered,—but he let
them have their joke;
He seemed amazed, like a man gone dazed, the sun in his
eyes too bright,
And for many a week, in spite of their cheek, he never
offered to fight.

And after that day he changed his play, and kept a
civiller tongue,
And whenever an Injin came that way, his contrairy head
he hung;
But whenever he heard the lying word, "*It's a LIE!*"
Phil Blood would groan;
"*A Snake is a Snake, make no mistake! but an Injin's
flesh and bone!*"

THE GOLDEN YEAR:

AN ODE ON THE JUBILEE OF THE EMPRESS VICTORIA.

Now the winter of sorrow is over,
And the season of waiting is done,
'Mid acclaim of the people who love her
Our Lady steps forth in the sun ;
The green earth beneath and the blue sky above her,
She walks in the sight of the millions who cover
The realms she hath welded to one !
'Tis Jubilee here, and 'tis Jubilee yonder,
As far as the sun round her empire doth wander,
From the east to the west wakes the world in her honour,
The sunrise and sunset flash splendour upon her,
Now winter is over and done !

. . . Empress and Queen, the flowers and fruits of nations
Are heapt upon the footstool of thy throne ;
Amid the thronging hosts, the acclamations,
The trumpets of thy Jubilee are blown !
Glorious and glad, with pomp and pride resplendent,
Thy subject Spirits come and wait attendant :
Tawny and proud, a queenly sibyl-maiden,
Comes INDIA, clad in woofs of strange device,
With fruitage from the fabled Eastern Aiden,
And gifts of precious gems and gold and spice ;
On a white elephant she rides, while round her
Like baying hounds her spotted tigers run—
Black-brow'd as night, to her who tamed and crown'd her
She comes, with fiery eyes that front the sun.
AUSTRALIA follows, in a chariot golden
Drawn by black heifers ; on the chariot's side
An ocean eagle sits with white wings folden,
And o'er her head float egrets purple-dyed.

Tattoo'd TASMANIA, with wild ringlets flowing,
Followed by savage herds and hinds, strides near.
CANADA'S comes mocassin'd, clearly blowing
Her forest horn, and brandishing her spear.
ALBION in martial mail, with trident gleaming,
Leads an old lion, and a lamb snow-white;
Blonde CALEDONIA, with glad tartan streaming
Back from her shoulder, leaves her lonely height,
And with her mountain Sister, to the strumming
Of harp and pipe, joins the rejoicing throng.
The world is shadow'd with the swarms still coming
To hail their Queen with mirth and festal song!

For the winter of sorrow is over,
And gone are the griefs that have been,
'Mid acclaim of the people who love her
She comes to her glory, a Queen.
'Tis Jubilee here, and 'tis Jubilee yonder
As far as the sun round her empire doth wander,
From the east to the west wakes the world in her
honour,
The sunrise and sunset flash splendour upon her,
Unclouded, at peace, and serene!

Yet . . . who is this that rises up before her,
Ragged and hungry, blood upon her hands?
Smileless beneath the heavens now smiling o'er her,
Wild grey-hair'd ERIN on her island stands!
Loudly she crieth, "Crown'd Queen and Mother,
If such thou art, redress my children's wrong;
Upraise the seed of Esau! Bid his brother
Restore to him the birthright stol'n so long!
'Mid his fat flocks sits Jacob unrepenting,
Yet starts with lifted wine-cup at my cry;
My children starve—my tribe is left lamenting—
My dwellings lie unroof'd beneath the sky.

Even the mess of pottage gives he never,
For which he bought the birthright long ago ;
While joy in Jacob's vineyard flows for ever,
Esau preserves his heritage of woe !
Justice, O Queen, or ——" For the rest she clutches
Her naked knife, and laughs in shrill despair. . . .
O Queen and Empress, by the piteous touches
Of Love's anointing fingers, hear her prayer !
Let not thy Jubilee be stained, O Mother,
By the old sin the sinful past hath known.
The wrongs this Esau suffers from his brother
Are blood-stains on the brightness of thy throne !

Now the winter of sorrow is ended,
And the season of waiting is fled,
Let the blessing by all men attended
On Esau and Erin be shed !
'Tis Jubilee here, and 'tis Jubilee yonder
As far as the sun round thine empire doth wander ;
But Esau roams outcast and homeless, O Mother,—
At night on the rocks, near the tents of his brother,
The weary one pillows his head !

O bright and beauteous, Lady, is thy splendour,
The waves of life leap round thee like a sea—
Smiling thou hearest, happy-eyed and tender,
The silver clarions of thy Jubilee !
And yet . . . O God ! what shrouded shapes of pity
Are these who cry unto thee from afar ?
Huddling beneath the gas, in the dark City,
Hagar and Mary wail their evil star !
For Hagar still is hungry and forth-driven,
And Magdalen still crawls from door to door,
Tho' He who cast no stone, and promised Heaven,
Bade her repent and go, and sin no more.

Long, long hath she repented, tho' foul fetters
Still bind her to the sin without a name ;
And on the children's breasts the crimson letters
Tell to a cruel world the mother's shame.
But *thou*, too, art a Mother, Queen appointed,
And *thou*, too, hast thy children ! Wherefore, heed
The crying of the lost one, who anointed
Thy Master's feet, and save her sinless seed.
Feed Hagar and her little ones, whose crying
Pierces the heart of Pity to the core !
Find Magdalen, from shrine to shrine still flying,
And say to him who stones her as of yore :
" The time hath come for justice in full measure,
For him who shares the sin to share the stain ;
No longer shall my triumph or my pleasure
Be troubled by my broken sister's pain ! "
O Lady, such a word of vindication
Shall value all thy splendour twentyfold ;
Hagar's new gladness, Magdalen's salvation,
Would be a brighter crown than that of gold !

. . . For the season of waiting is over,
And the winter of sorrow is done,
'Mid acclaim of the people who love her
Our Lady steps forth in the sun.
'Tis Jubilee here, and 'tis Jubilee yonder
As far as the sun round her empire doth wander,
If the weary and outcast are weeping no longer,
The wrong'd stands erect, at her feet kneels the
wronger.

For the Golden Year has begun !

The Golden Year ! How loudly and how gladly
The trumpets of thy Jubilee are blown !
But . . . what is this that loometh out so sadly
Yonder, behind the shining of thy throne ?

Christ's Tree? A cloud of blackness doth enfold it,
Beneath it weeping shapes their wild arms toss—
Alas! the bright sun strikes, and we behold it—
The Tree of Man's Invention, not the Cross!
Blackest of blots upon thy throne pure golden
Casts this foul growth of evil, with its root
Deep as the roots of Hell, this upas olden
With blood for blossoms, flesh and blood for fruit!
And weeping angels of the empyrean
Look down in shame and sorrow from the sky,
While followers of the bloodless Galilean
With impious rites lead deathless Cain to die!
While this Tree bears, O Queen, while earth is sooted
With its black shadow, woe to thine and thee!
The air around thy throne shall be polluted,
And Hell must laugh to hear thy Jubilee!

By the hope and the faith thou dost cherish,
By summer now breaking serene,
Let the Tree of man's cruelty perish,
The Cross of man's mercy be seen!
'Tis Jubilee here, and 'tis Jubilee yonder,
As far as the sun round thine empire doth wander,
But, long as these boughs of the upas are bearing,
The sound of sad weeping, of bitter despairing,
Shall trouble thy glory, O Queen!

O merry music! Drums and fifes are sounding,
Thy realm is resonant from sea to sea!
A million hearts are gladdening and bounding
To the great glory of thy Jubilee!
Yet . . . who are these that thy proud throne environ,
That, ring'd around by swords, with shout and laugh
Drag forth the monsters from whose mouths of iron
The frail Sepoy was blown like bloodiest chaff?

Thy warriors? Thine? Not His who came proclaiming
Love's gospel, while earth's Kings knelt down to
hear?

O Queen, then Fire and Sword surround thee, shaming
The peace and plenty of thy Golden Year?

O hearken! From the lonely desert places,
From graves thy hosts have dug these latter years,

The cry of wailing tribes and wounded races
Breaks on thy queendom with a sound of tears;

And while in cottages and princely towers
Pale English widows weep and orphans moan,

Death comes to set his pallid funeral flowers
And yew-trees round the footstool of thy throne!

Yet gone are the seasons of sorrow
And winter hath vanish'd (men say)!

Shall Famine and Fire come to-morrow
And add to the graves of to-day?

'Tis Jubilee here, and 'tis Jubilee yonder,
As far as the sun round thine empire doth wander,
Yet Cain rears his altar and slays his frail brother,
And men who should cherish and love one another
Go smiling to torture and slay!

Listen, O Empress, to the tearful voices

That pierce above the thunder of thy State!

Beyond the throng that gladdens and rejoices

The flocks of human martyrs weep and wait.

They know thee great and good, O Queen and Mother,

They hunger for the blessing of thy hand;

But Jacob in his pride forgets his brother,

And Hagar wanders famish'd thro' the land.

Grasping thine Aaron's rod with gentle fingers,

Touch hearts of stone until the fountains start,

Shed summer on the isle where winter lingers,

Fill the black void in Erin's aching heart!

Rebuke thy legions! Bid them crouch before thee,
 Nor lusting still for conquest draw the sword!
 Let doves, not battle-ravens, hover o'er thee,
 And Christ, not Moloch, deck thy festal board!
 For all this pomp and pride turn black and bitter
 If women weep and mourners wail their dead.
 The blessing of the sorrowful were fitter
 To crown thee than the crown upon thy head!
 O hearken yet, this year of years, O Mother,
 Proclaim sweet peace from every heaven-lit hill,
 Let Justice be thy handmaid, and no other,
 And say to all things evil, "Cease, be still!"

O then shall all sorrow be over,
 And then indeed winter be done,
 'Mid acclaim of the people who love her
 Our Lady shall walk in the sun!
 The green earth beneath and the blue sky above
 her,
 Her smile shall shed peace on the millions who cover
 The realms she hath welded to one.
 'Tis Jubilee here, and 'tis Jubilee yonder
 As far as the sun round her empire doth wander,
 But Jubilee brighter shall come with to-morrow,
 With the end of all strife and surcease of all sorrow,
 When the night-tide of evil is done!

Epode.

LADY, God lends a torch to light
 Thy path to peace transcending dreams.
 Uphold it! See, from height to height,
 Across the day, across the night,
 Its splendour streams!
 God gave the realm, God gives the Light—
 How sweet, how bright,
 It beams!

That torch is Love, whose lucent ray
 Slays all things cruel and unclean !
No shadow clouds it night or day,
While sun and moon keep equal sway,
 Calm and serene.
God gives this torch with heaven-fed ray
 To light thy way,
 O Queen !

Let this thy guide and sceptre be,
 And power and peace may still be thine,
All mortal men shall bend the knee,
All men revere, in thine and thee,
 The Law Divine.
Blest shall thy mighty Empire be,
While o'er the world, from sea to sea,
The sunlight of thy Jubilee
 Shall shine !

“ANNIE;”
OR, THE WAIF’S JUBILEE.

“The magistrate asked her what she had to say for herself.
“Only this, sir,” she replied, “*I was a gentleman’s daughter once.*”
—POLICE REPORT.

“*Annie! Annie!*”
Hark, it is Father’s call!
See, he is coming! Run
To meet him, little one,
In the golden evenfall.
Yonder down the lane
His voice calls clear:
“*Annie!*” he cries again—
Run down and meet him, dear!
The long day’s toil is done,
The hour of rest has come—
Haste to him, little one—
Ride on his shoulder home!

. . . What voice is this she hears across the storm,
The haggard Waif who stands with dripping form
Shivering beneath the lamps of the dark street?
With slant moist beams upon the Rain’s black walls
The dreary gaslight falls,
And all around the wings o’ the Tempest beat!
O hark! O hark!
The voice calls clear i’ the dark—
She hears—she moans—and moaning wanders on;
A mist before her eyes,
A stone in her heart, she flies
Into the rainy darkness, and is gone!

*What a night ! strong and blind
Down the street swoops the Wind,
Falls breathless, then moans !
While again and again
Like a spirit in pain,
On the black slippery stones
Sobs the Rain ! . . .*

*“Annie ! Annie !”
Hark, it is Father’s call !
See, he is coming ! Run
To meet him, little one,
In the golden evenfall !*

. . . Out from the darkness she hath crept once more,
That strange voice ringing hollow over all ;
Close to the theatre’s great lighted door,
Where smiling ladies, while the raindrops pour,
Wait for their carriages, and linkmen bawl.
She pauses watching, while they laugh and pass,
Tripping across the pavement ’neath the gas,
Then rattling home. Home ? Ah, what home hath *she*,
Who once was bright and glad as any there ?
Fifty years old, this is her Jubilee !
And round her Life is like an angry Sea
Breaking to ululations of despair !

Who hath not seen her, on dark nights of rain,
Or when the Moon is chill on the chill street,
Creeping from shade to shade in grief and pain,
Showing her painted cheeks for man’s disdain,
And wrapt in woe as in a winding sheet ?
Sin hath so stain’d it none may recognise
The face that once was innocent and fair,
And hollow rings are round the hungry eyes,
And shocks of grey replace the golden hair.

And all her chance is, when the drink makes blind
The foulest and the meanest of mankind,
To hide her stains and face a hideous mirth,

And gain her body's food the old foul way—
Ah, loathsome dead sea fruit that eats like earth,
Her mouth is foul with it both night and day!

So that corruption and the stench of Death
Consume her body and pollute her breath,
And all the world she looks upon appears
A dismal charnel-house of lust and tears!
Sick of the horror that corrupts the flesh,
Tangled in vice as in a spider's mesh,
Scenting the lazar-house, in soul's despair,
She sees the gin shop's bloodshot eyeballs glare,
And creepeth in, the feverish drug to drain
That blots the sense and blinds the aching brain;
And then with feeble form and faltering feet
Again she steals into the midnight street,
Seeks for her prey, and woefully takes flight
To join her spectral sisters of the Night!

*What a Night! fierce and blind!
Down the street swoops the Wind!*

*How it moans! how it groans!
While again and again
Like a spirit in pain,*

*On the black slippery stones
Sobs the Rain!*

See! like ghosts to and fro

*Living forms swiftly pass,
With their shadows below*

*In the gleam of the gas;
And the swells, wrapt up warm,
With their weeds blazing bright,
Hurry home thro' the Storm . . .
It's a Hell of a Night!*

Hell? She is *in* it, and these shapes she sees,
While crawling on, are hateful and accurst!
Light laughter of light lips, mad images
Of dainty creatures delicately nurst,
Cries of the revel, blackness, and the gleam
Of ghastly lights, are blended in her dream
Of Hell that lives and is, the Hell she knows,
With all its mockery of human woes!
Darkly, as in a glass, she seeth plain
The vision of dead days that live again:
The house, beyond these streets, where she was born;
The father's face in death; the hungry home;
The fight for bread; the hungry and forlorn
Cry for a help and guide that would not come;
The glimmer of glad halls, the forms therein
Beck'ning and laughing till she joined their mirth;
Then, pleasures sultry with the sense of sin,
And those foul dead sea fruits that taste of earth;
Then, blackness of disease and utter shame,
And all Hell's infamies without a name!
Then, all the bloom of sense and spirit fled,
The slow descent to midnight gulfs of dread
Like *this* she sees!—Then, in a wretched room
Deep mid the City's sunless heart of gloom,
Another life awakening 'neath her heart,
A sickly babe with crying lips apart
Moaning for food!—and into Hell she creeps
Once more to feed it, haunting the black street,—
Yea, in the garret where her infant sleeps
Hell's hideous rites are done, that it may eat!
Then, Death once more! The sickly life at rest;
The child's light coffin that a child might bear;
The mother's hunger tearing at her breast,
And only Drink to drown the soul's despair.
She sees it all, on this her Jubilee,
While the Night moans, and the sick Hell-lights
gleam . . .

O God! O Motherhood! Can these things be,
And men still say that Hell is but a dream?

"Annie! Annie!"

*What voice is this that cries,
Amid the lights of Hell,
Where these live shadows dwell
Under the rain-rent skies? . . .
What a night! All one hears
Is the torrent of tears
On a World plung'd in pain;
All one sees is the swarm
Of dim waifs in the Storm,
Flitting hither and thither,
(O God, who knows whither?)
Like ghosts, thro' the Rain!*

. . . Annie! . . .

She hears the voice, ev'n while she crawls
'Neath the black arches on the riverside,
Then moaning low upon her face she falls . . .
Annie! . . . She stirs, and listens as it calls,
With eyes that open wide.
Lost there to Man, dead to the Storm and Strife,
She lies and keeps her Jubilee till morn,.
O'er her, a heap of rags, the waves of Life
Wash weary and forlorn . . .
Is all, then, done? Nay, from the depths of Night
That voice still cries, and dimly gleams a Light . . .
"Annie!"—She listens—Thro' the Tempest wild
One cometh softly—she can see him come!—
"Father! I'm Annie! I'm your little child!"
And Father lifts her up, to bear her Home!

L'ENVOI TO THE PRECEDING POEM.

I.

COURAGE, and face the strife of Humankind
In patience, O my brother :
We come from the eternal Night to find,
And not to lose, each other !

Think'st thou thy God hath toil'd thro' endless Time
With ceaseless strong endeavour,
To fashion these and thee from ooze and slime,
Then blot his work for ever ?

Age after age hath roll'd in billowy strife
On the eternal Ocean,
Bearing us hither to these sands of Life
With sure and steadfast motion.

Dead ? Nought that lives can die. We live, and see !
So hush thy foolish grieving :
This Universe was made that thou might'st be
Incarnate, self-perceiving.

Still thine own Soul, if thou would'st still the strife
Of phantoms round thee flying ;
Remember that the paradox of Life
Is Death, the Life undying.

II.

How ? *Thou* be saved, and one of these be lost ?
The least of these be spent, and thou soar free ?
Nay ! for these things are *thou*—these tempest-tost
Waves of the darkness are but forms of thee.

Shall these be cast away? Then rest thou sure
No hopes abide for thee if none for these.
Would'st thou be heal'd? Then hast thou these to cure;
Thine is their shame, their foulness, their disease.

By these, thy shadows, shalt thou rise or fall;
Thro' these and thee, God reigns, or rests down-trod;
Let Him but lose but one, He loses all,
And losing all, He too is lost, ev'n God.

These shapes are only images of thee,
Nay, very God is thou and all things thine:
Thou art the Eye with which Eternity
Surveys itself, and knows itself Divine!

PHERSON'S WOOING.

A BAGPIPE BALLAD, AFTER MACHOMER.

NOTE.—In this Homeric ballad of modern marriage by capture in the Scottish Highlands, several customs are described which are not even yet altogether extinct,—for example, the old Highland custom of midnight courtship in the lady's chamber, described in Pherson's relation of his nocturnal visits to Meg Nicraonail. For the rest, I myself have personal knowledge of a rape of the kind celebrated in the poem. The results, however, were unfortunate, for although the bold lover succeeded in bearing the bride the prescribed distance from her father's door, he eventually died of the injuries inflicted by her kinsmen.

R. B.

(Tune up, Pipers!)

WITH red, unshear'd
 Beard,
 Fiery eyes by foemen fear'd,
 Form gigantic famed in story,
 Standing on the bleak and wide
 Mountain side,
 Cried
 Neil Macpherson of Tobermory.

(Foot and elbow, now, together!)

"Pherson is my name!" (the throngs
 Shriek'd in approbation)
 "Tuncan Pherson of the Songs
 Wass my blood-relation!
 Many a Pherson great and small
 Has been counted clever,
 And the Phersons, one and all,
 Are goot men, whatever!
 Yonder up the heathery strath
 Dwells sweet Meg Nicraonail,*

* NOTE.—Pronounce *Nicronnell*. MacRaonail, in Gaelic, the son of Raonail; NicRaonail, the daughter of Raonail.

Fairest lassie from Cape Wrath
 Southward to Strath Connell;
 Breastit like the swan so light,
 Lintwhite-lockit Meg is,
 Eyes like stars, and limbs as white
 As a pullet's egg is!
 Many a day, ochone a rie,
 I have woo't this person,
 On my naked bended knee
 Pray'd and pleaded she would be
 Bride and wife of Pherson.
 Sirs, she longs to be my bride,
 Does this dainty leddy,
 But her kinsmen, tamn their pride!
 Say the knot shall ne'er be tied
 Tho' herself is ready!
 Shall I bear their scoff and scorn,
 Leave her and forsake her?
 Or, between the mirk and morn,
 Mother-naked take her?
 I have call'd you here to speak—
 Speak, then, now or never!"
 Loud as thunder rose the shriek:
 "Take her, Neil, whatever!"

(*Skirl!*)

Tall, gigantic,
 Fierce and frantic,
 Tossing down his bonnet,
 Gray Shon Alastair MacCall
 Cried, "We're with you, one and all,—
 There's my fist upon it!
 Send the message town the glen,
 Gather all your fighting men,
 Lads of kilt and plaidie,
 Teach the Raonails (tamn their clan!)

How to treat a shentleman
When he coorts a leddy !”

(Step tune, cannily !)

By the waters of the Shiel
To the ocean booming,
Braes of heather 'neath their heel,
Hills of heather stiff to speel *
Up behind them looming,
Gather'd Pherson's friends and kin,
Men of thew and sinew,
Crying, “ 'Tis yoursel' shall win !
Put some whiskey in your skin !
Show the stuff that's in you !”
Up along the lonely pass,
By the torrent's water,
Stood the dwelling of the lass,
Shon Macraonail's daughter ;
And the Raonails from afar
Saw with trepidation
(Knowing it portended war)
Pherson's preparation.

(Pipers, still cannily !)

There's a Highland law, as old
As the great MacMoses,
Says—if any wooer bold
Dares, when flocks are in the fold,
And the house reposes,
In his arms a maid to seize
Spite her kin's prevention
(Duly notifying these,
First, of his intention),

He the lassie shall possess,
 After due persistence,—
 But his failure or success
 Shall be judged *by distance* :
 If beyond her father's door
 Full five hundred yards or more
 He his prize can carry,
 Spite of stones and spite of blows,
 Cracking crown or bloody nose,
 He the maid may marry !
 Nay, her kinsmen, when 'tis done,
 Shall admit politely
 That the bride is fairly won,
 Ta'en and captured rightly ;
 Casting hate and strife away,
 All, with smiling faces,
 Shall 'mid floods of usquebae *
 Bless that pair's embraces !

That's the custom ! but it needs
 One of resolution,
 Train'd in strength of doughty deeds,
 For its execution !
 Such was Pherson ! such were those
 Thronging round the giant !
 Tiptoe, like the cock that crows
 Battle-challenge to his foes,
 Stood red Neil, defiant !
 " Long the lass has let me woo
 In the Hieland fashion—
 [Och, she is a dainty doo,†
 Full of tender passion !]
 Many a night outside her bed

* Mountain dew, or whiskey. † Dove.

I my shaggy limbs have spread,
When no een have seen us,
Underneath the blankets she,
Keeking out and kissing me,
But—the claise between us !
While her folk were snoring sound,
Fondly clasping arms around
This most charming person,
I of kisses took my fill ;
But a kiss, sirs, cannot still
Love in Neil Macpherson !
I will seize her, by my saul,
And resign her never ! ”
Loud as thunder rose the call
From the throats of one and all,
“ Take her, Neil, whatever ! ”

(Reel time, Pipers !)

Down Strathconnell ran the cry
Ringing out a warning :
“ Neil the Pherson means to try
Theft and capture, tho’ he die,
’Twixt the mirk and morning ! ”
Thick as bees round honied bykes
Clansmen ring’d the lady,—
“ Let him come as soon ’s he likes !
Gott, he’ll find us ready ! ”
Round the fire their cups they drained,
Arm’d and breathing slaughter,
While the sun with crimson stained
Mountain, moor, and water.
Trembling in the inner room
Lay the longing Maiden,
Blushing like a rose in bloom,
Listening terror-laden . . .
Pass’d the dusky Eventide,
Stars above grew thicker,

Faster round the ingleside
 Went the fiery liquor!
 Crouching on their cutty seats*
 Dame and granddame listened,
 While as red as flaming peats
 Angry faces glisten'd.
 "Tamn the Pherson and his kin!
 Aal his sheneration!
 If he dares to enter in,
 There'll be potheration!"
 Lying in the inner room
 Meg could hear them screaming,
 Smell the fiery whiskey-fume
 From the circle steaming!

(Now softly, Pipers!)

Darker, stiller grew the night,
 Hour by hour departed,—
 Laughing louder in delight
 Raonail's kinsmen arm'd for fight
 Grew more valiant-hearted.
 "Tamn the Pherson! In his bed
 Full of fear he's lying!
 Deil a step this way he'll tread!"
 Meg could hear them crying . . .
 Fainter soon the revel rung,
 Sleepy eyes were closing,
 One by one the clansmen hung
 Heavy noddles, dozing . . .
 Meg arose, and at the door,
 In her sark,† half-frozen,
 Listen'd! Silence! Then a snore!
 Then an answering dozen!

* Low stools.

† Nightgown.

Then her lighted lamp she took,
Full of trepidation,
Set it in her window-nook—
Signal for invasion !
[Even so sweet Hero gave
Warning to her wooer,
Guiding him across the wave
Mother-naked to her !]
Back to bed the maiden flies,
List'ning (sly young person !)
Till, like lightning from the skies,
On the clansmen's sleepy eyes
Breaks the form of Pherson ! !

(Skirl, Pipers, Skirl !)

Up they sprang and sought their brands,
Near them idly lying,
Through their ranks with mighty hands
Pherson now was flying.
Soon he reach'd the chamber dark,
Seized the lassie in her sark ;
Loud she shriek'd (but kissed him !)
Bore her crying to the door,
Faced the frantic clan, once more
Ready to resist him !
As a torrent tears amain
Over rocks and boulders,
While the blows fell down like rain
On his sinewy shoulders,
Neil the Pherson all alone
Swept thro' men and women—
Thick as ninepins overthrown
Fell the kilted foemen !
Bleeding wounds upon his brow,
Blood his features staining,
On he bears the prize, and—wow !
He the door is gaining !

After him the Raonails stream,
 Striking, cursing, chasing,—
 Maggie still pretends to scream,
 His strong neck embracing !
 Out into the night he flies,
 Panting, struggling, springing,
 Bearing off the bonnie prize,
 Kissing, cuddling, clinging !
 Warm'd by kisses such as those
 From Macraonail's daughter,
 Heedless of the raining blows,
 Pherson, followed by his foes,
 Nears the running water !
 There, five hundred yards and more
 From Macraonail's open door,
 Pherson's friends are glaring—
 Wild their "hooch !" to heaven rings,
 As the riever thither springs,
 His white burthen bearing.
 Swift into the nut-brown stream,
 Round his middle gushing,
 Strides he, while with angry scream
 Come the Raonails rushing !
 Raonails now on Phersons clash,
 Shrieking and opposing !
 Spluttersmash and splatterdash !
 In the shallow pools they splash,
 Like two wrestlers closing !
 Long they fight and twist and turn,
 But the race is over—
 Side by side beyond the burn
 Sit the lass and lover ! (*Hooch !*)
 Pherson, wounded from the fray,
 Wiping clots of blood away,
 Laughing, takes his plaidie,
 Wraps it like a blanket warm

Round the dripping, drooping form
Of his dainty lady.
Mouth to mouth and breast to breast
Now they cling in passion,
Pherson's very soul is blest
Past anticipation—
Then with crow of joy and pride
He his prize upraises,
Bears her down the mountain side,
While the Dawning sleepy-eyed
O'er the hill-tops gazes !

(Slow time, toe and heel, softly, softly !)

So Macraonail's child was won
By the law of thieving !
So the doughty deed was done
By the Pherson, Pherson's son,
Valiant past believing !
That day week the feast was spread
When the sun sank rosy ;
While the holy rites were said,
Lasses on the bridal bed
Spread the blankets (cosy !)
Thronging in the Raonails ran,
With good whiskey laden—
“ Pherson, you're a shentleman,
And deserfe the maiden ! ”
Of the mighty midnight fray
Each betrayed some token—
Here a lug* clean sliced away,
There a strong arm broken ;
One came hirpling† on a staff,
Smiling at disaster,
T'other's nose, cut clean in half,
Clung to sticking plaster !

* Ear.

† Limping.

But the Persons with the same
 Battle-signs were sprinkled—
 Some were bandaged, most were lame ;
 Of MacCall's two eyes of flame
 Only one now twinkled !
 With a patch on either eye,
 Features stain'd with slaughter,
 Person sat triumphant, by
 Raonail's dainty daughter . . .
 While they gather in accord
 Ranging round the festal board
 Broken heads and noses,
 Grim Shon Alastair MacCall,
 Patch'd and broken from the brawl,
 Person's health proposes :
 " Here's the Person and his clan !
 Sirs, he iss the lad who can
 Gife and take a threshing !
 Health to all who fought that night !
 By my saul, it was a fight
 Pleasant and refreshing ! "
 Hand grips hand, and all around
 Smile with plaster'd faces,
 Pipers play, and at the sound,
 While the kilted dancers bound,
 Neil his bride embraces.
 " Person is my name ! " he cries,
 " Noble is my clan, sirs !
 Tamn the rascal who denies
 I'm a shentleman, sirs ! "
 " Person ! Person ! " rings the call
 From the throats of great and small,
 " Hooch, but he is clever ! "
 " Here's to Person and the wife ! "
 " Take her, Person—all her life
 She is yours, whatever ! "

THE BALLAD OF MAGELLAN.*

(SPOKEN IN THE PERSON OF ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS,
DYING AT HOME, YEARS AFTER THE WONDERFUL VOYAGE
WAS OVER.)

SEND no shaven monks to shrive me, close the doors
against their cries ;
Liars all ! ay, rogues and liars, like the Father of all lies ;
Nay, but open wide the casement, once more let me feast
my gaze
On the glittering signs of Heaven, on the mighty Ocean-
ways !

Who's that knocking ? Fra Ramiro ? Left his wine-cup
and arm-chair,
Come again with book and ointment, to anoint me and
prepare ?
Sacramento !—send him packing, with his comrades
shaven-crown'd :
Liars all ! and prince of liars is their Pope ! The world
is round !

See, the Ocean ! like quicksilver, throbbing in the starry
light !
See the stars and constellations, strangely, mystically
bright !
Ah, but there, beyond our vision, other stars look brightly
down,
Other stars, and high among them, great Magellan's
starry crown !

* Magellan was the first man to circumnavigate the earth, and thus to establish the scientific theory that the world was a globe.

O Magellan ! Lord and Master !—mighty soul no Pope
could tame !

On the seas and on the heavens you have left your radiant
name ;

Brightly shall it burn for ever, o'er the waters without
bound,

Proving Pope and Priests still liars, while the sun-kist
world is round.

Let the cowls at Salamanca cluster thick as rook and
claw !

Let the Pope with right hand palsied clutch his thunder-
bolts of straw !

Heaven and Ocean, here and yonder, put their feeble
deeds to shame ;

Earth is round, and high above it shines Magellan's starry
name !

Have you vanish'd, O my Master ? O my Captain, King
of men,

Shall I never more behold you standing at the mast
again,

Eagle-eyed, and stern and silent, never sleeping or at
rest,

Pallid as a man of marble, ever looking to the west ?

As I lie and watch the heavens, once again I seem to be
Out upon the waste of waters, sailing on from sea to
sea. . . .

Hark ! what's that ?—the monks intoning in the chapel
close at hand ?

Nay, I hear but sea-birds screaming, round dark capes of
lonely land !

Out upon the still equator, on a sea without a breath,
Burning, blistering in the sunlight, we are tossing sick to
death ;

Every night the sun sinks crimson on the water's endless
swell,
Every dawn he rises burning, fiery as the flames of Hell.

Seventy days our five brave vessels welter in the watery
glare,
O'er the bulwarks hang the seamen panting open-mouth'd
for air ;
On the "Trinitie" Magellan watches in a fierce unrest,
Never doubting, or despairing, ever looking to the west.

Then at last with fire and thunder open cracks the sultry
sky,
While the surging seas roll under, swift before the blast
we fly,
Westward, ever westward, plunging, while the waters
wash and wail ;
Nights and days drift past in darkness while we sail,
and sail, and sail.

Then the Tempest, like an eagle by a thunderbolt struck
dead,
With one last wild flap of pinions, droppeth spent and
bloody-red,
Purpling Heaven and Ocean lieth on the dark horizon's
brink,
While upon the decks we gather silently, and watch him
sink.

Troublously the Ocean labours in a last surcease of pain,
While a soft breath blowing westward wafts us softly
on the main,—
Nearer to the edge of darkness where the flat earth ends,
men swear,
Where the dark abysses open, gulf on gulf of empty air !

Creeping silently our vessels enter wastes of wondrous
weed,
Slimy growth that clings around them, tangle growing
purple seed,
Staining all the waste of waters, making isles of floating
black,
While the seamen, pointing fingers, shrink in dread, and
cry, "Turn back!"

On the "Trinitie" Magellan stands and looks with fear-
less eyes—
"Fools, the world is round!" he answers, "onward still
our pathway lies;
Though the gulfs of Hell yawn'd yonder, though the
Earth were ended there,
I would venture boldly forward, facing Death and Death's
despair."

On their knees they kneel unto him, cross themselves and
shriek afraid,
Pallid as a man of marble stands the Captain undismayed,
Claps on sail and leads us onward, while the ships crawl
in his track,
Slowly, scarcely moving, trailing monstrous weeds that
hold them back.

On each vessel's prow a seaman stands and casts the
sounding-lead,
In the cage high up the foremast gather watchers sick
with dread.
Calmly on the poop Magellan marks the heavens and
marks the sea,
Darkness round and darkness o'er him, closing round the
"Trinitie."

Days and nights of deeper darkness follow—then there
comes the cry,
“He is mad—Death waits before us—turn the ships and
let us fly!”
Storm of mutinous anger gathers round the Captain stern
and true,
Near the foremast, fiercely glaring, flash the faces of the
crew.

One there is, a savage seaman, gnashing teeth and waving
hands,
Strides with curses to the Captain where with folded arms
he stands,—
“Turn, thou madman, turn!” he shrieketh. Scarcely
hath he spoke the word,
Ere a bleeding log he falleth, slaughter’d by the Leader’s
sword!

“Fools and cowards!” cries Magellan, spurning him with
armèd heel,
“If another dreams of flying, let him speak—and taste
my steel!”
Like caged tigers when the Tamer enters calmly, shrink
the band,
While the Master strides among them, cloth’d in mail and
sword in hand.

O Magellan! Lord and Leader!—only He whose fingers
frame
Twisted thews of pard or panther, knot them round their
hearts of flame,
Light the emeralds burning brightly in their eyeballs as
they roll,
Could have made that mightier marvel, thine inexorable
Soul!

Onward, ever on, we falter—till there comes a dawn of
day

Creeping ghostly up behind us, mirror'd faintly far away,
While across the sea to starboard loometh strangely land
or cloud—

“Land to starboard!” cries Magellan—“Land!” the
seamen call aloud.

Southward steering creep the vessels, while the lights of
morning grow ;

Fades the land, while in our faces chilly fog and vapour
blow ;

Colder grows the air, and clinging round the masts and
stiffening sails

Freezes into crystal dewdrops, into hanging icicles !

Suddenly arise before us, phantom-wise, as in eclipse,
Icebergs drifting on the Ocean like innumerable ships—
In the light they flash prismatic as among their throng
we creep,

Crashing down to overwhelm us, thundering to the
thund'rous Deep !

Towering ghostly and gigantic, 'midst the steam of their
own breath,

Moving northward in procession in their snowy shrouds
of Death,

Rise the bergs, now overtoppling like great torrents in
the air,

While along their crumbling edges slips the seal and
steals the bear.

With the frost upon his armour, like a skeleton of steel,
Stands the Master, waiting, watching, clad in cold from
head to heel ;

Loud his voice rings through the vapours, ordering all
and leading on,
Till the bergs, before his finger, fall back ghostlike, and
are gone!

Once again before our vision sparkles Ocean wide and
free,
With the sun's red ball of crimson resting on the rim of
sea ;—
“Lo, the sun!” he laughs exulting—“still he beckons
far away—
Earth is round, and on its circle evermore we chase the
Day!”

As he speaks the sunset blackens. Twilight trembles
through the skies
For a moment—then the heavens open all their starry
eyes!
Suddenly strange Constellations flash from out the fields
of blue—
Not a star that we remember, not a splendour priestcraft
knew!

Sinking on his knee, Magellan prays: “Now glory be to
God!
To the Christ who led us forward on His wondrous
watery road!
See, the heavens give attestation that our search shall
yet be crowned,
Proving Pope and Priests are liars, and the sun-kist world
is round!”

Sparkling ruby-ray'd and golden round the dusky neck
of Night
Hangs a jewell'd Constellation, strangely, mystically
bright—

Pointing at it cries the Master, "By the God we all
adore,
It shall bear *my* name, MAGELLAN!" and it bears it,
evermore.

Storms arising sweep us onward, but each night our
courage grows,
Newer portals of the Heaven seem to open and unclose,
Showing in the blue abysm vistas luminously strange,
Sphere on sphere, and far beyond them fainter lights that
sparkle and change!

Presently once more we falter among pools of drifting
scum,
Weed and tangle—o'er the blackness curious sea-birds go
and come—
While to southward looms a darkness, as of land or
gathering cloud,
Northward too, another darkness, and a sound of breakers
loud.

Once again they call in terror, "Turn again, for Death is
near!"
Once again he quells their tumult, smiting till they
crouch in fear.
On with darkness closing round them, land or cloud, our
fleet is led,
Fighting tides that sweep them backward, flowing from
some gulf of dread.

Next the Vision! next the Morning, after rayless nights
and days,
Twinkling on a great calm Ocean stretching far as eye
can gaze,—
Newer heavens and newer waters, solitary and profound,
Rise before us, while behind us Day arises crimson-
crown'd!

Turning, we behold the shadows of the straits through
 which we sped,
Then again our eyes look forward where the windless
 waters spread ;
Overhead the sun rolls golden, moving westward through
 the blue,
Reddens down the far-off heavens, beckons bright, and
 we pursue.

On that vast and tranquil Ocean, folding wings the strong
 winds dwell,
Sleeping softly or just stirring to the water's tranquil
 swell,
Peaceful as the fields of heaven where the stars like
 bright flocks feed,—
So that many dream they wander thro' the azure Heaven
 indeed !

Then Magellan, from its scabbard drawing forth his
 shining sword,
Grasps the blade, and downward bending, dips the bright
 hilt overboard—
“By the holy Cross's likeness, mirror'd in this hilt !”
 cries he,
“Be this Ocean called Pacific, since it sleeps eternallie !”

Pastured with a calm eternal, drawing down the clouds
 in dew,
Sighing low with soft pulsations, darkly, mystically blue,
Lies that long untrodden Ocean, while for months we sail
 it o'er ;
Ever dawns the sun behind us, ever swiftly sets before.

But like devils out of Tophet, as we sail with God for
 Guide,
Rise the spectres, Thirst and Hunger, hollow-cheek'd and
 cruel-eyed ;

Fierce and famish'd creep the seamen, while the tongues
between their teeth
Loll like tongues of hounds for water, dry as dust and
black with death.

Many fall and die blaspheming; "Give us food!" the
living call—
Pallid as a man of marble stands the Master gaunt and
tall,
Hunger fierce within him also, and his parch'd lips prest
in pain,
But a mightier thirst and hunger burning in his heart
and brain!

Black decks blistering in the sunlight, sails and cordage
dry as clay,
Crawl the ships on those still Waters night by night and
day by day;
Then the rain comes, and we lap it as upon the decks it
flows—
"Spread a sail!" calls out the Master, and we catch it ere
it goes.

Now and then a lonely sea-bird hovers far away, and we
Crouch with hungry eyes and watch it fluttering closer
o'er the sea,
Curse it if it flies beyond us, shoot it if it cometh nigh,
Share the flesh and blood among us, underneath the
Captain's eye.

Sometimes famished unto madness, fierce as wolves that
shriek in strife,
One man springs upon another, stabs him with the
murderous knife;

Then the Master, stalking forward where the murderer
shrinks in dread,
Bids him kneel, and as he kneeleth cleaves him down, and
leaves him dead.

O Magellan! mighty Eagle, circling sunward lost in light,
Wafting wings of power and striking meaner things that
cross thy flight,
God to such as thee gives never lambkin's love or dove's
desire—

Nay, but eyes that scatter terror from a ruthless heart of
fire!

Give me wine. My pulses falter. . . So! . . . Confusion
to the crows!

They who hooted at my Eagle, eyes of bats and heads of
owls!

Throw the casement open wider! There is something yet
to tell—

How we came at last to waters where the naked islesmen
dwell.

Isles of wonder, fringed with coral, ring'd with shallows
turquoise-blue,

Where bright fish and crimson monsters flash'd their
jewell'd lights and flew,

Steeps of palm that rose to heaven out of purple depths
of sea,

While upon their sunlit summits stirr'd the tufted coca-
tree—

Isles of cinnabar and spices, where soft airs for ever creep,
Scenting Ocean all around them with strange odours soft
as sleep—

Isles about whose promontories danced the black man's
light canoe,
Isles where dark-eyed women beckon'd, perfumed like the
breath they drew.

Drunken with the sight we landed, rush'd into the scented
glades,
Treading down the scented branches, seized the struggling
savage maids.
Ah, the orgy ! Still it sickens !—blood of men bestrewed
our path,
Till the islesmen rose against us, thick as vultures, shriek-
ing wrath.

Then, the sequel ! Nay, I know not how the damnèd
deed could be—
By some islesman's poisoned arrow or some Spaniard's
treacherie ;
But one evening as we struggled fighting to our boats on
shore,
In the shallows fell the Captain, foully slain, and rose no
more !

O Magellan ! O my Master ! O my Captain, King of men !
Was it fit thou so shouldst perish, though thy work was
over then ?
Foully slain by foe or comrade, butcher'd like a common
thing,
Thou whose eagle flight had circled Earth upon undaunted
wing !

Nay, but then my King had conquered ! Earth and Ocean
to his sight
Open'd had their wondrous visions, shaming centuries of
night :

Nay, but even the shining Heavens kept the record of his
fame—

Earth was round, and high above it shone Magellan's
starry name!

How our wondrous voyage ended? Nay, I know not,—
all was done;

Lying in my ship I sickened, moaning, hidden from the
sun.

Yea! the vessels drifted onward till they came to isles of
calm,

Where some savage monarch hail'd them, standing under-
neath a palm.

How the wanderers took these islands tributary to our
King,

Show'd the Cross, baptized the monarch, homeward crept
on weary wing?

Pshaw, 'tis nothing! All was over! *He* had staked his
soul and gained,

They but reaped the Master's sowing, they but crawl'd
where he had reigned!

Hark? what sound is that? The chiming of the dreary
vesper bell?

Nay, I hear but Ocean sighing, feel the waters heave and
swell.

Earth is round, but sailing sunward with my Master still
I fare—

Other Heavens his ship is searching,—and I go to seek
him *there*!

THE BURIAL OF PARNELL.

(SPOKEN IN THE PERSON OF ONE OF HIS FOLLOWERS).

"We come to bury Cæsar, not to praise him."

1.

WE come to bury Cæsar, not
To praise him!—yet our eyes
Grow dim above the holy spot
Where our dead Monarch lies;
The hungry millions, weeping too,
Mourn their lost Lord and Friend,
While here we stand, the faithful few
Who loved him till the end!

2.

Cæsar lies dead!—yea, Cæsar! Tho'
His brows were never crown'd,
He reigned, until the assassin's blow
First struck him to the ground;
He walk'd imperial in command,
While angry factions raved—
Sad Cæsar of the woeful Land
Which he redeemed and saved!

3.

Cæsar is dead!—no golden throne
Or purple robes sought he,
But led, in darkness and alone,
Legions that would be free;
His armies were the famish'd throng
That rose and march'd by night,
A living Host that swept along
To some great Land of Light!

4.

The dim Light grows, the Dawn is nigh !
But he who led us on,
Who held the fiery Cross on high
Thro' the long night, is gone !
Full at his heart the cowards smote
With many a trait'rous thrust,
While Falsehood fasten'd on his throat
And dragg'd him to the dust ! . . .

5.

Ev'n as a Lion fixing eyes
On something far away,
He stood alone 'neath sunless skies
On his great triumph-day ;
Then, while he march'd the battle-place,
His jackals gather'd in . . .
And *now* ? The things which fear'd his face
Fight for the Lion's skin !

6.

What one of these shall put it on ?
Thou, weakest of the weak,
Who, when thy Lord lay woe-begone,
First kiss'd, then smote, his cheek ?
Or *thou*, who mock'd him in his fall
With foul and impious jest ?
Or *thou*, the basest of them all,
Who gnaw'd the bleeding breast ?

7.

Jackals and cowards, mourn elsewhere !
Not near the mighty Dead !
Your breath pollutes the holy air
Around a Martyr's bed.

Go ! fatten with the Scribes and Priests
Who led your foul array,
Or crouch, with all the timorous beasts
Who follow'd him for prey !

8.

Who slew this Man ? The cruel Foe
That stab'd our Erin first ;
Then Brutus, loth to strike the blow ;
Then Casca, the accurst ;
Then freedmen by his hands unbound,
And slaves his hands had fed,
Joining the throng that ring'd him round,
Stoned him till he was dead !

9.

Lo, where the English Brutus stands,
With white and reverend hair,
Bloodstains upon the wrinkled hands
He calmly folds in prayer ;
Facing all ways beneath the sky,
Strong still, tho' worn and wan,
This Brutus is (so all men cry)
"An honourable man " !

10.

Casca and Cassius haggard-eyed,
Their gaze on Brutus' face,
Say, " Surely Cæsar had not died
If *thou* had given him grace ! "
O thrice-bound Freeman, in whose name
They proved this dead Man base,
Still keep from unbelief and shame
Thy Marriage Market-place !

11.

There, where the White Slave, Woman, stands,
Wearing her gyves of gold,
Soothe with the ointment of the creeds
The body ere 'tis sold ;
Preach the high Law of Purity,
Find out all stains and slurs,
And keep the great Slave-market free
To righteous purchasers !

12.

But, Brutus, thou who conjurest
In Freedom's sacred name,
Back from this grave, mar not this rest,
Breathe not this Martyr's name !
Priests on thy left hand and thy right,
Stand up and prate of God,
While he thou didst betray and smite
Lies dead beneath the sod !

13.

Still, where thou standest, bending o'er
Thy head, and blessing thee,
Broods the pale Babylonian Whore
They name "Morality" :
Making a noble spirit blind
With her polluting breath,
She found the means Hate could not find,
And plann'd the deed of Death !

14.

Who slew this man ? Thou, Christian Land,
Who sendest o'er the foam
Mammon and Murther hand in hand
To shame the Christ at home !

The Christ? His painted Image, nurst
By knaves who cast on men
The curse of Priestcraft—last and worst,
The Priestcraft of the Pen!

15.

Not till our King lay bleeding there,
Crept forth with cruel eyne
The venom'd things which make their lair
Beneath the Seven-Hill'd Shrine:
Then, in the name of him they priced,
Degraded, and betrayed,
They poisoned, these false priests of Christ,
The wounds a Judas made!

16.

We come to bury, not to praise
Our Cæsar—yet his knell
Joins with the cry of wrath we raise
'Gainst those thro' whom he fell!
While Freemen pass from hand to hand
The Fiery Cross he waved,
His fame shall lighten thro' the Land
Which he redeemed and saved!

TOM DUNSTAN; OR, THE POLITICIAN.

"How long, O Lord, how long?"

1.

Now poor Tom Dunstan's cold,
All life's grown duller;
There's a blight on young and old,
And our talk has lost its bold
Red-republican colour!
Poor Tom was crippled and thin,
But Lord, if you'd seen his face,
When, sick of the country's sin,
With bang of the fist, and chin
Stuck out, he argued the case!
He prophesied men should be free!
And the money-bags be bled!
"She's coming, she's coming!" said he;
"Courage, boys! wait and see!
Freedom's ahead!"

2.

Cross-leg'd on the board we sat,
Like spiders spinning,
Stitching and sweating, while fat
Old Moses, with eyes like a cat,
Sat greasily grinning;
And here Tom said his say,
And prophesied Tyranny's death;
And the tallow burned all day,
And we stitch'd and stitch'd away
In the thick smoke of our breath.

Poor worn-out slops were we,
With hearts as heavy as lead;
But "Patience! she's coming!" said he;
"Courage, boys! wait and see!
Freedom's ahead!"

3.

And at night, when we took here
The rest allowed to us,
The Paper came, with the beer,
And Tom read, sharp and clear,
The news out loud to us;
Then, warm with the "half and half,"
He'd go it, hammer and claws!
And Lord, how we used to laugh
To hear him smother with chaff
The Snobs who make the laws!
And it made us breathe more free
To hearken to what he said—
"She's coming! she's coming!" said he;
"Courage, boys! wait and see!
Freedom's ahead!"

4.

But grim Jack Hart, with a sneer,
Would mutter, "Master!
If Freedom means to appear,
I think she might step *here*
A little faster!"
Then, 'twas fine to see Tom flame,
And argue, and prove, and preach,
Till Jack was silent for shame,—
Or a fit of coughing came
O' sudden, to spoil Tom's speech.

Ah! Tom had the eyes to see
When the tyrants would be sped :
"She's coming! she's coming!" said he ;
"Courage, boys! wait and see !
Freedom's ahead !"

5.

But Tom was little and weak,
The hard hours shook him ;
Hollower grew his cheek,
And when he began to speak
The coughing took him.
And at last the cheery sound
Of his voice among us ceased,
And we made a purse, all round,
That he mightn't starve, at least.
His pain was awful to see,
Yet there, on his poor sick-bed,
"She's coming, in spite of me !
Courage, and wait !" cried he ;
" Freedom's ahead ! "

6.

A little before he died,
To see his passion !
"Bring me a Paper !" he cried,
And then to study it tried,
In his old sharp fashion ;
And, with eyeballs glittering,
His look on me he bent,
And said that savage thing
Of the Lords o' the Parliament.
Then, dying, smiling on me,
"What matter if *one* be dead ?
-She's coming at last !" said he ;
"Courage, boy! wait and see ;
Freedom's ahead !"

7.

Ay, now Tom Dunstan's cold,
All life seems duller ;
There's a blight on young and old,
And our talk has lost the bold
Red-republican colour.
But we see a figure gray,
And we hear a voice of death,
And the tallow burns all day,
And we stitch and stitch away
In the thick smoke of our breath ;
Ay, while in the dark sit we,
Tom seems to call from the dead—
"She's coming! she's coming!" says he;
"Courage, boys! wait and see!
Freedom's ahead!"

How long, O Lord! how long
Must Thy Handmaid linger
She who shall right the wrong,
Make the poor sufferer strong?
Sweet morrow, bring her!
Hasten her over the sea,
O Lord! ere Hope be fled!
Send her to make men free! . . .
O Slave, pray still on thy knee,
"*FREEDOM'S ahead!*"

L'ENVOI TO "BUCHANAN BALLADS."

*I do not sing for Maidens. They are
roses
Blowing along the pathway I pur-
sue :*

*No sweeter things the wondrous world
discloses,
And they are tender as the morning
dew.
Blessed be maids and children : day
and night
Their holy scent is with me as I write.*

*I do not sing for Schoolboys or School-
men.*

*To give them ease I have no languid
theme,
When, weary with the wear of book
and pen,
They seek their trim poetic Aca-
deme ;
Nor can I sing them amorous ditties,
breed
Of too much Ovid on an empty head.*

*I do not sing aloud in measured tone
Of those fair paths the easy-soul'd
pursue :*

*Nor do I sing for Lazarus alone,
I sing for Dives, and the Devil too.
Ah ! would the feeble songs I sing
might swell*

*As high as Heaven, and as deep as
Hell !*

*I sing of the stain'd outcast at Love's
feet,—*

*Love with his wild eyes on the even-
ing light ;*

*I sing of sad lives trampled down like
wheat*

*Under the heel of Lust, in Love's
despite ;*

*I glean behind those wretched shape
ye see
In the cold harvest-fields of Infamy.*

*I sing of death-beds (let no man re-
joice*

*Till that last piteous touch of all is
given!) ;*

*I sing of Death and Life with equal
voice,
Heaven watching Hell, and Hell
illum'd by Heaven.*

*I have gone deep, far down the in-
fernal stair—*

*And seen the heirs of Heaven arising
there !*

*I sing of Hope, that all the lost may
hear ;*

*I sing of Light, that all may feel its
ray ;*

*I sing of Souls, that no one Soul may
fear ;*

*I sing of God, that some perchance
may pray.*

*Angels in hosts have praised Him
loud and long,*

*But Man's shall be the last triumphal
Song.*

*Oh, hush a space the sounds of voices
light*

Mix'd to the music of a lover's lute.

*Stranger than dream, so luminously
bright*

*Eyes shall be dazzled and the mouth
be mute,*

*Man shall arise, Lord of all things that
be,*

*Last of the gods, and Heir of all things
free !*

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